



Beautiful image of a Black Hole from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope



August 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 **September** issue is due to LJGRALG@aol.com by **August 15**.

President's Message*Jim Gray, RMFMS President*

I want to start by saying *THANK YOU* to the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society for hosting the 2026 annual RMFMS convention. It appeared to be a well-attended show and comments from the vendors were favorable. I also want to thank the RMFMS Executive Committee for the very nice plaque acknowledging my service as President. This was a completely unexpected honor!



There were a lot of showcases, both judged and non-competitive, and I enjoyed helping judge them and was particularly impressed by the quality of the junior cases. I saw the nicest piece of Pandanus from Beaver Rim, Wyoming that I have ever seen. The specimen was entered by Roberta Wagle of the TRMS club and she won 1st place in her category!



It was nice to see friends and several vendors I know from around the country. It was great to see Ronna Watkins, the current AFMS President; she always brings enthusiasm and good ideas. I want to

offer my congratulations to the newly elected RMFMS officers for whom the real work will begin November 1, 2026: Steve Kaminski as President-elect and Chris Whitney Smith as Vice President-elect. Re-elected officers are Liz Thomas as Secretary, Gene Maggard as Treasurer, and Cinda Kunkler as Historian. Also, some of the State Directors were sworn in: Steve Bohannon for Colorado, Lori Loomis for ND/SD/NE, and Larry Beck for KS. A big *thank you* for the willingness of these people to serve! There are some committee head positions open, and if you are interested in serving please contact me. At a different place in this newsletter will be a list of those openings.

[photo by Jim Gray]

continued on next page

President's Message — continued from page 2

The banquet was nicely presented by the Hilton Garden Inn, and the auction of items donated by Jim and Leane Gray and generous cash donations raised nearly \$1,000 for the scholarship fund! Great job to all who participated.

The Editor/Webmaster breakfast was well attended, and the RMFMS received the most awards of all of the Federations this year at the AFMS convention in St. Charles, IL in May! The Oklahoma, Colorado, and Kansas clubs really stood out! Great job to all who contributed. I hope to see all of the clubs enter one or more of the contests for 2027. It is fun. It was suggested to the State Directors to distribute information and encouragement to their clubs to send in submissions. There are many options -- from a picture to a poem to articles and more!

My final thought about the convention is that I am very thankful the meeting rooms and the show venue were air-conditioned!! My final thoughts for this month's message from the President are that I have been honored to serve the RMFMS, I have a few more things I would like to do in the coming months of my term, and I would like to extend my condolences to the families, friends, and clubs who lost members this past year. Each member was valued and will be remembered in the hearts of those who knew them.

Until next time, Jim

2026 Report from the Historian

Cinda Kunkler, RMFMS Historian



Happy SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL Independence Day 250 years USA! We are gathering in Tulsa for their annual Rock & Gem Show. The **Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society** was formed in 1958, now hosting the RMFMS for the 6th time July 10-12, 2026. Prior years are 1968, 1984, 1998, 2008 & 2014.

We are one month shy of the inception of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies gathering held in Denver, CO, on August 9, 1941. Making this the 85th Anniversary of the RMFMS. Be sure to check out the photo of the **RMFMS Field Trip 1941** in the historical documents. In review of the 1941 meeting information, it includes the following: *"The Sunday Program consisted of an all day collecting trip through the famous early mining camp of the Front Range."* [Editor's note: See the photo on page 5.] The clubs that were present are listed in the historical documents.

Starting with the 1st RMFMS Convention (I am listing every 5th year of show locations): Denver -1941, Phoenix – 1946, Phoenix – 1951, Rapid City – 1956, Casper – 1961, Hobbs, NM – 1966, Topeka - 1971, Roswell – 1976, Salt Lake – 1981, Phoenix – 1986, Salt Lake -1991, Roswell – 1996 & 2001, Stillwater – 2006, Colorado Springs – 2011, Wichita – 2016, and Big Piney – 2021.

During the last 85 years, only 1943, 1944, and 1945 were the Convention/Shows suspended due to World War II. The 2020 show (Big Piney) was held even though COVID put a damper on attendance. Big Piney held the show again in 2021.

continued on next page

Historian — continued from page 3

The RMFMS History (gold) notebooks for the following years are available to look over: 1941-1970 gives a summary of each year's gathering. Other individual notebooks are: 1961 Casper, 1967 Casper, 1991 Salt Lake.

I have added more years! 1942 (photo's 41 Field trip), 1943-1946, 1955 & 56, 1966 & 1976. Please take time to look through some of them and learn more about the RMFMS and our clubs. Our **RMFMS Directory** lists all '**Past Show Locations,**' which I really like for easy reference. This year is the 18th RMFMS show that I have attended. Hoping to see many Friends and make some new.

1940 — *Dr. Bob* — 2026

Robert L. Carlson - a man talented and intelligent, with a sneaky wit and gentle humor (at times). He was married and divorced three times, but his long-time love was Fran Berting. They were together at least three decades. During that time, he designed, engineered, and worked on his "castle" on Los Pueblos Street. When asked when it would be finished, he always would say "December, but I won't tell you the year."

Bob was highly skilled at handcrafted furniture, jewelry, and gem-cutting. Past president of the Western Division of the American Mineralogical Society, he and Fran delighted in attending their annual conventions where they were generous

**Robert Lawrence Carlson**

January 13, 1940—April 26, 2026

Los Alamos, New Mexico

hosts. Retired from LANL and formerly with Hanford, he leant his expertise in the nuclear field. He was affectionately known as "Dr. Bob," as he worked hard to earn his PhD from the University of Washington all those years ago and didn't want anyone to forget it.

He is survived by four daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two nieces, a nephew, and their families.

A memorial will be held at his beloved castle on the anniversary of his passing in 2027. Details to follow.

<https://www.riverafamilyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/robert-carlson>

A Taste of RMFMS Convention 2026

Linda Jaeger, RMFMS Editor



RMFMS FIELD TRIP, (1941). ASSEMBLING AT STATE CAPITAL, DENVER.

Left: From the Historian's files – RMFMS Filed Trip, 1941. Check out the attire! How things change!

Below: Roberta Wagle presents 1st Place All American Club Award to Martha Rongey, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society. Photo by Liz Thomas.

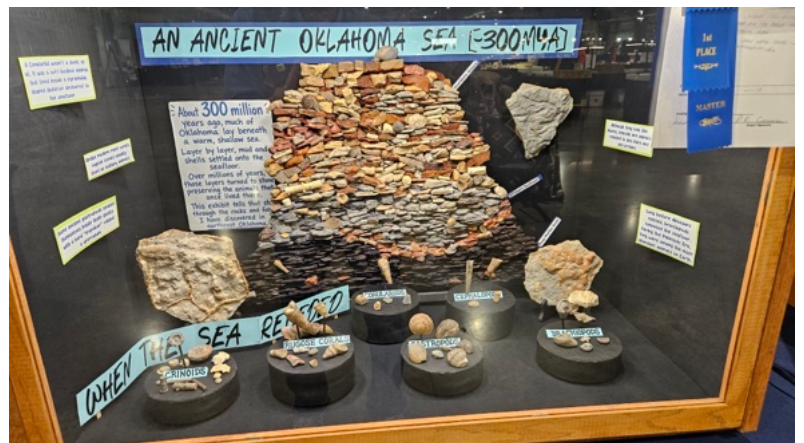


Right: Judy Beck installs 2026-2027 Officers & Directors. Larry Beck, Lori Loomis, Gene Maggard, Steve Kaminski, Liz Thomas, Cinda Kunkler. Terms begin on November 1, 2026. (Jim Gray will become Past President.) Photo by Linda Jaeger.



Left: Editors Breakfast – another long line of AFMS & RMFMS awards for our editors, authors, & artists. Photo by Linda Jaeger

Right: Linda's favorite competitive case from the show. Photo by Richard Jaeger.



Summertime Public Relations

DeLane Cox, RMFMS Public Relations Chair

What can we do for PR in the Summertime?

So, your club's Show is over, your Rock Swap is not yet ready to work on. Is there any need for public relations now?

Well, simple answer...Yes, there is. There are several things your club can be doing to enhance your public relations.

Remember, first of all: your best source of good public relations is from your current members. How is the club's communications with them? Is your club's newsletter going out regularly? Does it contain information your members need? Does it list officer's names and contact information? Is it entertaining? Even information pieces occasionally need to include a good laugh! Do you have articles for your youth members, such as references to the AFMS kid's newsletter, "Crack the News," which can be found on the AFMS website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>. This is a nice little publication FOR kids, BY kids. *[Adults like to read it, too!]*

A second source of possible PR is to have information about your club that can be published in local papers. Do you have a member who has done something outstanding or unusual, be it related to the lapidary field or their personal fields of interest. Did the club win an award in the RMFMS or AFMS contests? Did a recent field trip turn up a really interesting find (picture opportunity here !)?

How about community outreach? Does your club do anything special for summer camps, local library

summer programs, programs for Senior Citizen Centers? Again, photo op and information are needed for these when press releases are sent out.

Has your Youth program in the club taken any interesting field trips, had special speakers come to their meeting (especially if there were hands-on demonstrations or features like life-sized dino bones). Again, these are great photo opportunities, and local papers will usually publish the information.

A couple of reminders are needed here: you need signed releases to use the picture of ANYONE in a publication. And children should be referred to by their first names only for security reasons. Always promote your club by including club name and meeting times and location. And always have a contact name and phone or email for any further information needed by the publication.

Summer is a good opportunity to have club picnics and field trips, too. Use these get-togethers to encourage everyone to get better acquainted with other members. Try especially to get new members to come and interact with other members so they feel more like a part of the club.

I hope these ideas will get your club interacting with all it is members and potential members soon.



Celebrating Our Volunteers

Chris Whitney-Smith, RMFMS ACROY Chair

Help Us Celebrate the Volunteers Who Made 2026 Awesome!

Every club has that one member who goes above and beyond, shows up, makes contributions and shares their passion for rocks and minerals with everyone around them.

Now's the time to recognize that person!

If your club has named an **Adult or Junior** member as **Rockhound of the Year**, help us celebrate them by requesting an official **AFMS Rockhound of the Year certificate**.

How to Submit Your Nomination

Email Chris Whitney-Smith at ask.chrisws@yahoo.com with the following:

1. Name of club
2. Member's full name
3. A brief description of why your club chose this member as Rockhound of the Year
4. A photo of the nominee (optional but encouraged!)

What Happens Next

Chris will email your club a personalized **AFMS Rockhound of the Year certificate**, ready to print, frame, and present to your star volunteer. Your honoree will also be featured in upcoming **Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)** and **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)** newsletters.

Let's honor those who honor our societies and our hobby!

This month — congratulations to:

Leslie Lysenko is not only **Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society's Rockhound of the Year** but of the past six years. She was the acting Treasurer when the club went into the COVID shut down. During this time WDGMS only had 13 active members. She stuck it out and stayed in her office position during this time. When WDGMS returned to hosting shows, she stepped forward and became the Show Treasurer as well as the Show Co-Chair. That same year WDGMS faced a very dark time, and she stood by the club president helping lead the Club through it. She has since handed the club Treasurer position to a new member yet still acts as the Show Treasurer and Show Co-Chair. **She is definitely WDGMS unsung hero.**

~Submitted by Deborah Vick

Cheers!

Chris Whitney-Smith

Scholarship Committee Report – 2026

Richard Jaeger, RMFMS Scholarship Chair



Five Rocky Mountain Federation clubs have thus far contributed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for the fiscal year November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. I thank each of the clubs that have contributed to the Scholarship Foundation. We also have personal donations and the regular donation from the RMFMS. The clubs, the amount they contributed, and the percentage to which that brings them are listed below. A percentage of 2500% would mean the equivalent of the club donating \$1 per member for 25 years.

Name	Dollar Amount	Percentage
Wayne & DeLane Cox	330.00	
James Mercier	60.00	
Kim Mose	60.00	
Liz Thomas	225.00	
Past Presidents	80.00	
RMFMS	8,944.00	
Fort Collins Rockhounds, Inc.	250.00	3,800%
N. Central Kansas Rock & Gem Society	100.00	1,500%
Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society	475.00	5,600%
Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society	295.00	6,200%
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society	50.00	8,500%
Total Donations	\$10,869.00	

The Fort Collins Rockhounds Club made a donation in memory of club member David M. Halliburton. Several of the donations mentioned above were made at the RMFMS Show in Tulsa this year. Jim and Leane Gray brought specimens that were auctioned off and brought in about \$870. The 4 Past Presidents at the banquet donated \$80 for Jim Gray. Jim did a perfect job of wearing the President's Hat.

Our Honorary Scholarship Awardee this year is Dr. Molly Yonker; she is the Education and Outreach Coordinator of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. She has been in that position since 2017.

The two graduate students she selected will be receiving \$4000 scholarships. They are Dani Storms and Reagan Rasmussen. They are both Ph.D. students at the University of Oklahoma. Dani presented a program at the Awards Banquet. She has worked with geophysical signals and their ability to monitor geochemical subsurface processes. Reagan was unable to attend, but Dr. Yonker told us about Reagan's work in paleomagnetism and study of lightning and paleoclimate.

2026 RMFMS/AFMS Bulletin Editor Awards

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!

Special Awards from AFMS included:

Top Clubs Participating in 2026 AFMS Competition

- Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society/[John D. Emery](#)
- Flatirons Mineral Club/[Dennis Gertenbach](#)
- McPherson Gem & Mineral Club/[Sara Murphy](#)
- Mineralogical Society of Arizona/[Joseph Philpott](#)
- Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society/[Deborah Vick](#)

And

RMFMS — Most AFMS Trophy Winners (18)

Claude Bolze — Appreciation for Judging Advanced Articles

Dennis Gertenbach — Dedication for Producing *Crack the News*

Linda Jaeger — Dedication for Producing the AFMS Newsletter



Trophy With Red Ribbon.ai

Image top right by [Vectorportal.com](https://www.vectorportal.com), [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

2026 RMFMS Bulletin Contest		<i>(for items published in 2025)</i>		
	Category	Editor or Author	Club	AFMS
	Small Bulletins			
1				
2	The Ammonite	Deborah Vick	Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society	1
	Large Bulletins			
1	The Rockhound Record	Joseph Philpott	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	5
DE-AFMS	Pick & Pack	John D. Emery	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	6
DE-AFMS	Flatirons Facets	Dennis Gertenbach	Flatirons Mineral Club	7

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Awards— continued from page 8

	Adult Articles			AFMS
1	Mineral Mayhem in Tucson: Pro Tips for First-Time Rockhounds	Joseph Philpott	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	HM
2	Rockhound Food Imagination	Russ Grossman	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	2
3	The Cerutti Mastodon Site	Sawyer Blizzard	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	1
4-HM	Mineral News: Why is Greenland Making Headlines?	Cameron Reichert	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	
5-HM	Petrified Wood	Shana Thornhill	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	Truth or COM	Marv Dahmen	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	Yooperlites	Mike Joebgen	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	The New USGS Cooperative National Geologic Map	Tina Cox	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	
	Menagerie Minerals	Jim Brown	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	In Search for the Coffee Can of Green Turquoise	Lisha Collins	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	Building a Machine for Making Rock Spheres	Don Clobes	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	Adult Articles Advanced			
1	<i>Elimia tenera</i> : The Snails in "Turritella Agate"	Dennis Gertenbach	Flatirons Mineral Club	1
2	Wolf Creek Pass: Collecting Zeolites and Haulin' Chickens	Mike Nelson	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	2
DE-AFMS	Finding Zircons in North Cheyenne Canon	Steven Wade Veatch	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	9
	Jr. Articles, under 12			
1	Why I Like Jr. Geology Club	Quin Armstrong (10)	Flatirons Mineral Club	1
DE-AFMS	Fish Tooth Conglomerate	Zoe Crouch (9)	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	2
	Jr. Articles, 12-17			
1	Remembering Bob Jones	Hannah Brodhagen (15)	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	1
2	Member Zone: Competing at the CFMS-AFMS Joint Show & Convention and Some Fossil Field Trips from a Fossil Collector's Perspective	Nathanael Brodhagen (15)	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	2
3	The Great Worm Hunt	Genna Crouch (15)	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	3

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Awards— continued from page 9

	<i>Jr. Articles, 12-17</i>			AFMS
4-HM	Kansas Amethyst	Knox Crouch (16)	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
5-HM	Gold Panning	Emily Stevenson (12)	Flatirons Mineral Club	
	Ogallala Opal	Brendan Crouch (12)	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
CTN	<i>Junior Articles, 12-17</i>			
	What Should I Do with My Club Patches?	Charlotte Small	Flatirons Mineral Club	1
	<i>Written Features</i>			
1	Trip Report: Kemmerer, Wyoming	Brian Stevenson	Flatirons Mineral Club	5
2	President's Message (MSA)	Chris Whitney-Smith	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	7
3	President's Message (MGMC)	Harlin Unruh	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	3
4-HM	Big Thompson Canyon Pegmatite Hunt	Mark Goldgeier	Flatirons Mineral Club	
5-HM	Badger Flats and Magnetite Ridge Field Trip	Doran Adams	Flatirons Mineral Club	
	Trip Report: Red Feathers Lake	Jasper Seldin	Flatirons Mineral Club	
	Rocks of the Month Presentation: Oct 12, 2025	Larry Hackney	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	Members Zone: Exploring Mont Blanc	Cameron Reichert	Mineralogical Society of Arizona	
	Special Effects	Paul Johnson	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	Special Effects Lesson 2	Robin Johnson	McPherson Gem & Mineral Club	
	<i>Drawn Features</i>			
1	Stegosaurus	Quin Armstrong (10)	Flatirons Mineral Club	1
2	Fossil of the Month: Heteromorph Ammonites	Charlotte Small (adult)	Flatirons Mineral Club	2
	<i>Photo Collage</i>			
1	Crawford, Nebraska Agates and Fluorescent Chalcedony & Calcite Field Trip	Brian Walko	Flatirons Mineral Club	
	<i>Adult Poetry</i>			
1	A Communion of Discovery	Steven Wade Veatch	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	3
2	The Mother Load of Rockhoulder's Laundry	George Atkinson	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	5
3	Chip Off the Old Rock	David St. John	Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society	8
DE-BEAC	A Haiku Inspired by this photo of Heart Rock in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma	Linda Jaeger	RMFMS (Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society)	1
	<i>Junior Poetry</i>			
1	Alacam's Purple Heart (Alacam'in Mor Kalbi)	Axel Gray (10)	Flatirons Mineral Club	1
2	CSMS Song	Logan Fjellman (16)	Colorado Springs Min. Society	1
	<i>Special Publications</i>			
1	42nd Annual Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Show	Deborah Vick	Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society	3

2026 Delegates Meeting Report for Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, July 11, 2026 Tulsa, Oklahoma

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary

President Jim Gray opened the meeting.

Leane Gray gave the invocation.

Steve Kaminski gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim welcomed the dignitaries to the meeting. We had Liz Thomas 1st-Vice-President of the AFMS, Ronna Watkins current President of the AFMS, Richard Jaeger-Past AFMS President and Past RMFMS President, Judy Beck- Past AFMS President and Past RMFMS President, and DeLane Cox past President of RMFMS. Jim also thanked the host club, Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society, for hosting the RMFMS convention.

Memorials for those who have passed were read, and delegates added names to the list.

Riverton Mineral and Gem Society and Rex Young Rock Club – Little Heumier, Ted Noles.

Cody 59ers – Dave Dumke, Linda Jennings.

Sublette County Rockhounds – Jim Joyer, Margaret Sanders, Billie Laughter, Karen Buck, and Steve Rennells.

El Paso Mineral and Gem Society – Paul Cowan, Gary Swinford.

Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society – Pat Skeary, Cliff Jackson, Jim Jones. Bob Lafaro, Patty Ludlow, Mike Wisnewski.

Payson, Arizona – Joe Bowman, Carol Bar

Oklahoma City – James Jackson

Las Cruces Gemcrafters – Charles Combs.

Canon City – Bev McInis, Greg Sharp

Tulsa, Oklahoma – Ralph Pointer, Arlyn Clary

HMGC in Sierra Vista – Jerry Kawamoto, Harold Behrens, Cathy Davis, Dwight Hoxie

Grand Junction – Gordon Blasdel, Bob Sammons

Olathe Kansas – Rebecca Ann Francis, Dr. Laird Vincent Yeerino, Jr.

Ft. Collins – Charlene Frank, David Molnar, Sheryl Remmels, Lolly Martin, Frederick Hart, Kevin Boulter, Glenn Antonopulos, Stanley Frank, Wayne Shortridge, Ray Grilley.

Wichita Gem and Mineral – John Rhodes

Topeka Gem and Mineral – Deborah Scanland

Enid – Leon Walters

Los Alamos - Dr. Bob Carlson

Roberta said we had a quorum for this meeting.

President's report is in the packet.

Vice-President's report is in the packet.

Secretary's report is in the packet. Richard made a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes from the last meeting by copies sent out to all with changes made to spelling and the name of the meeting. Per the Executive meeting there were some corrections that needed to be made. Kim Mose seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report is in the packet, but Gene said he had forgotten to add the '24-'25 Financial Spread Sheet. Gene will send these out via e-mail to all clubs, and I will include it with this report. Liz Thomas made a motion to accept the report that is in the packet, seconded by Gene. Motion passed.

Gene said that we have a balance of 7,200 in the checking and we have spent 2,900 which will leave us with a balance of 4,300. Gene will draw out 5,000 from the CD from Edward Jones to add to the checking account to cover any cost of the convention.

continued on next page

Delegates Meeting Report — continued from page 11

Gene reported that we have two new clubs that have joined us. Sheridan County is out of Wyoming and Gold Prospectors Chapter of White Mountain Arizona. He also said two clubs had dropped out.

Historian's report was passed out. Cinda brought lots of history books for everyone to look over. She has a 1941 Field Trip picture with the names of those on the trip.

Past President's report is in the packet.

AZ/NV State Director's report is in the packet.

CO State Director's report is in the packet.

NM/TX State Director's report is in the packet.

OK/AR State Director's report is in the packet.

SD/NB/ND State Director's report is in the packet.

UT State Director's report is in the packet, and he said that Ogden is the only club left. Beehive has dropped out.

WY State Director's report is in the packet. Leane said that Sheridan has joined with sixty-five members. This gives Wyoming 1150 total members.

ACROY (AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year)– is in the packet.

All American Club Contest – is in the packet.

Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee and Bulletin Editors Contest – is in the packet.

Boundaries – DeLane gave a verbal report.

Convention Advisor – is in the packet.

Credentials – is in the packet.

Directory – is in the packet.

Finance – Nov 24 to October 31 is reasonable.

Fossil Tech – is in the packet.

Insurance - is in the packet.

International Relations – is in the packet.

Junior Program - is in the packet.

Long Range Planning - is in the packet.

Mineralogical Tech - is in the packet.

Name Badges - is in the packet, but if one is needed, please see Richard.

Newsletter Editor – is in the packet.

Program Library - is in the packet.

Public Relations – DeLane gave a verbal report.

Ribbons – is in the packet.

Scholarship – is in the packet, we have received 10,000 in Scholarships so far this year. The plaque for the Scholarship Honorary Professor that chose the awardees was incorrect when it was picked up at the AFMFS convention, and he will have that fixed and sent to her.

Stationery and Trophies - is in the packet.

Supplies – is in the packet.

Webmaster – is in the packet.

Website Contest – is in the packet.

PLAC – AZ – is in the packet.

PLAC – KS - is in the packet.

PLAC – SD/ND/NB - is in the packet.

PLAC – WY - is in the packet.

continued on next page

Delegates Meeting Report — continued from page 12

New Business - Jim stated we have a new webmaster. Her name is Tessa Miller, and her email address is tessalarueedits@gmail.com. She is from Pinedal, Wyoming.

Jodie Brewster said this will be her last year.

Richard said he has some coins that he will give out at the banquet at each place. These were given to him in Denver. The coins are from the 1975 show and conference.

Richard also stated that the endowment fund had handed out three prizes within the Rocky Mountain Federation this year.

Old Business - Gene said the Trademark is up for renewal in 2028, and it takes a bit to get this done. The attorney that has done it in the past for free has passed away, and we need to find another person and see if they will do it free or find out what it will cost. He will check this out and let us know. Someone asked if this was Federal and Gene answered yes.

Lori asked about the committee chairs that need to be filled. She suggested that state directors need

to ask around their clubs. She also wanted to know if Lapidary Tech needed to be broken down in subcategories because it covers a long range of items.

Jody asked about making a new OP to form a new club. She has been speaking to Bill Freese, and they have produced a lot of ideas that need to be covered. Judy Beck told her to put it together and turn it in to the Long-Range Planning Committee to see if it is doable.

Jim gave the new slate of officers. President – Steve Kaminski, Vice-President – Chris Whitney-Smith, Secretary – Liz Thomas, Treasurer – Gene Maggard, AZ/NV State Director –, KS – Larry Beck, ND/SD/NB – Lori Loomis.

DeLane made a motion to approve the slate of Officers for 2026-2027. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Roberta made a motion to adjourn; Larry Beck seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

2026 Executive Meeting Report for Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, July 10, 2026, Tulsa Oklahoma

Liz Thomas, RMFMS Secretary

President Jim Gray opened the meeting.

Leane Gray gave the invocation.

Steve Kaminski gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim welcomed the dignitaries to the meeting. We had Liz Thomas 1st-Vice-President of the AFMS, Ronna Watkins current President of the AFMS, Richard Jaeger-Past AFMS President and Past RMFMS President, Judy Beck- Past AFMS

President and Past RMFMS President, and DeLane Cox past President of RMFMS.

Roberta said we had a quorum for this meeting.

Steve Kaminski made a motion to accept the Secretary's minutes from the last meeting by copies sent out to all. Roberta seconded the motion.

continued on next page

Executive Meeting Report — continued from page 12

DeLane wanted to know why I had labeled it Business meeting because it was an Executive meeting and not a business meeting. Judy Beck said there were some misspellings of some names, and who is allowed to make motions because someone that was not an executive member made a motion and the second was also made by a nonmember. I advise that I will make these changes. Motion passes with changes.

President's report is in the packet.

Vice-President's report is in the packet.

Secretary's report is in the packet.

Treasurer's report is in the packet, but Gene said he had forgotten to add the '24-'25 Financial Spread Sheet. Gene will send these out via e-mail to all clubs, and I will include it with this report. Motion was made by Liz Thomas to accept the report that is in the packet, seconded by Gene. Motion passed.

Gene said that we have a balance of 7,200 in the checking, and we have spent 2,900 which will leave us with a balance of 4,300. Gene will draw out 5,000 from the CD from Edward Jones to add to the checking account to cover any cost of the convention.

Gene reported that we have 2 new clubs that have joined us. Sheridan County is out of Wyoming, and Gold Prospectors Chapter of White Mountain, Arizona.

Past President's report is in the packet. He also reported on the Scholarships report. We have received 10,000 in Scholarships so far this year. The plaque for the Scholarship Honorary Professor that chose the awardees was incorrect when it was picked up at the AFMS convention, and he will have that fixed and sent to her.

AZ/NV State Director's report is in the packet.

CO State Director's report is in the packet.

NM/TX State Director's report is in the packet.

OK/AR State Director's report is in the packet.

SD/NB/ND State Director's report is in the packet.

UT State Director's report is in the packet, and he said that Ogden is the only club left.

WY State Director's report is in the packet.

Jim stated we have a new webmaster. Her name is Tessa Miller, and her email address is tessalarueedits@gmail.com. She is from Pinedale, Wyoming.

Wayne Cox stated that he has looked over the financials and all is good.

New Business – Jodie Brewster said this will be her last year.

Lori said that the directory is costing us around \$9.00 each to print and then there is the mailing cost. She wanted to know if we should be doing emails only to all the clubs? Do we raise the price of selling the extras? One suggestion was to make larger sheets so more info could go on the sheet to cut down on the number of pages sent out. Lori will get more information about the cost of this and let everyone know.

Gene said the Trademark is up for renewal in 2028, and it takes a bit to get this done. The attorney that has done it in the past for free has passed away, and we need to find another person and see if they will do it free or find out what it will cost. He will check this out and let us know. Someone asked if this was Federal, and Gene answered yes.

Lori asked about the committee chairs that need to be filled. She suggested that state directors need to ask around their clubs. She also wanted to know

continued on next page

Executive Meeting Report — continued from page 13

if Lapidary Tech needed to be broken down in subcategories because it covers a long range of items. No comments.

Liz asked who would be willing to judge the junior cases for the Rocky Mountain Federation contest. Jim, Roberta and Ronna will do the judging.

Jody asked about making a new OP to form a new club. She has been speaking to Bill Freese, and they have come up with a lot of ideas that need to be covered. Judy Beck told her to put it together

and turn it in to the Long-Range Planning Committee to see if it is doable.

Jim gave the new slate of officers. President – Steve Kaminski, Vice-President – Chris Whitney-Smith, Secretary — Liz Thomas, Treasurer – Gene Maggard, AZ/NV State Director –, KS – Larry Beck, ND/SD/NB – Lori Loomis.

Roberta made a motion to adjourn; Larry Beck seconded the motion. Passed.

Website Contest Deadline

Terry Wilson, CFMS Website Contest Chair

Thank you to Terry Wilson of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies for the following great explanation of the website contest [CFMS Newsletter, August 2026]. [The RMFMS deadline is also September 30, 2026.](#) — Leane Gray, RMFMS Website Contest Chair

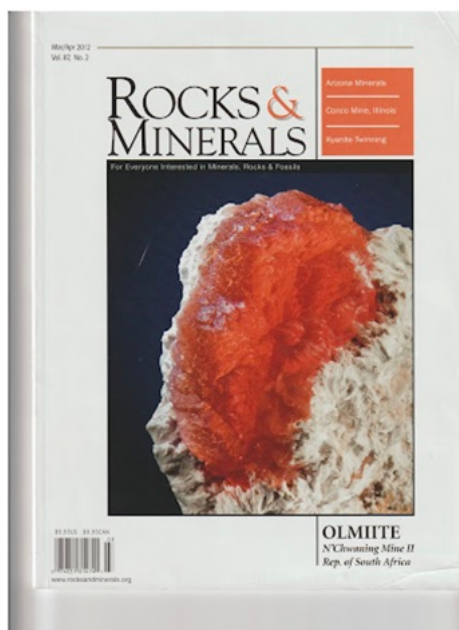
The 2026 Website Contest is now open! The deadline is September 30, so there's plenty of time to get ready. This contest is actually an AFMS contest that starts regionally. Go to <https://www.amfed.org/contests/website-contest>, the AFMS page with all the forms and instructions. Scroll down to the list of regional federations and choose RMFMS. You will enter online, and the AFMS contest chair will assign the judges.

The website contest is not about flash and awe, or how great your club is. It's about attracting new members and providing information for existing members. **Read the guidelines for the critical components of a good website**, like a contact form and meeting information. You can also see the 2025 winners on the AFMS page, and get an idea of what other clubs are doing.



Clipart from <https://creazilla.com/search/clipart/web%20browser>

Olmiite from the Kalahari *Mike Nelson, csrockguy@yahoo.com, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society*



The photo that started it all!

as its cover photo, a specimen of olmiite, a newly discovered mineral (2007) from the N'Chwaning Mine II, Kalahari manganese fields, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. I thought the mineral and the photo were pretty spectacular and decided to look for such while touring the Tucson Shows in February. I was always peering at the different booths and tables and was about ready to admit defeat when there it was, olmiite in a perky box on a table with many other thumbnails. The proprietor told me he wasn't certain what olmiite was except a manganese mineral. He originally had two specimens but had sold one, and since the show was drawing to a close I could have it for half price, \$7. I grabbed it out of his hand and handed him the cash. At least it seemed like a good deal to me.

I was interested in the mineral, not only for its good looks, but also due to its rarity. According to MinDat dot Org most olmiite specimens on the market come from the N'Chwaning Mine II, the Type Locality, but a few specimens are known from the nearby Wessels Mine (three photos in MinDat) and N'Chwaning III Mine (one photo in MinDat). Olmiite is also listed by MinDat as being found in

A few years ago, I was able to purchase, at a great price, several back issues of *Rocks and Minerals*, issues starting before my subscription began. I enjoy, immensely, reading the journal from cover to cover. The May/April 2012 issue had,

the Långban Mine (no photos) in Sweden. For a little interesting trivia, note that the iron ore and manganese mining at Långban has produced ~300 different minerals and is the Type Locality for ~60!



The Kalahari, home to the N'Chwaning and associated mines, is the world's most prolific producer of manganese (and also home to a famous desert). 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 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).



A section of the Kalahari Desert, Namibia, Africa. Public Domain photo in Pixabay.com.

continued on next page

Olmiite — continued from page 11

Olmiite, $\text{CaMn}^{++}[\text{SiO}_3(\text{OH})](\text{OH})$, is best known for its reddish pink color (pale to intense) but also occurs in various shades of raspberry, honey, pinkish tan, white to gray, while the crystals at N'Chwaning III are gemmy clear and some at Wessels are translucent clear. However, the reddish pink is the color that sticks in the minds of collectors.



Olmiite with white crystals of bultfonteinite. Width FOV ~1.3 cm.

Orthorhombic olmiite, a product of hydrothermal alteration, is transparent, has a vitreous luster and a white streak; hardness is ~5.0-5.5 (Mohs). Crystal habits include prismatic, spherical radial bundles, crystal sprays and what has been termed wheat-sheaf-like aggregates. The olmiite in my collection, as do most other olmiite specimens, has a deep red fluorescence under short wave UV.

A closely related mineral termed poldervaarite is the manganese analogue of olmiite and has a solid solution relationship and a long history of misidentification. Robert Cook, in the 2012 *Rocks and Minerals* article, articulates a great story about the history and discovery of these two minerals and presents some nice photos. Great reading.

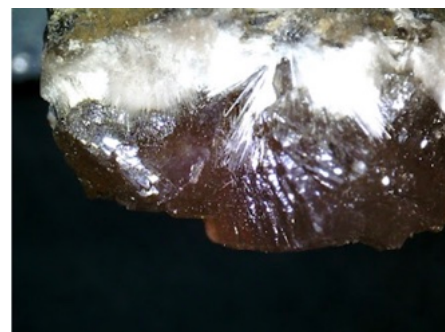
My specimen of olmiite is associated with a little-known mineral (at least to me) named

bultfonteinite, a fluorine bearing calc-silicate--- $\text{Ca}_2(\text{HSiO}_4)\text{F}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Calc-silicates are rocks, or their composing minerals (common minerals include diopside, wollastonite, the "garnets" grossular-andradite, and epidote), that usually form in high-temperature, contact metamorphic zones where a mafic magma (high magnesium and iron content, low silica content) intrudes into limestone or other carbonate rocks, as in a skarn. The Type Locality of bultfonteinite is at the famous diamond-bearing kimberlites in present-day Kimberley, Northern Cape, South Africa. Bultfonteinite was first found in a large, isolated block of dolerite or diabase (an

igneous intrusive rock equivalent to extrusive basalt) and shale fragments that were enclosed in a kimberlite pipe. These pipes consist of



an igneous rock known as peridotite (lots of iron, silica, olivine, amphibole,



*Prismatic acicular crystals of bultfonteinite associated with olmiite shown above. Width FOV: **top** (spray) ~1.5 mm, **middle** ~1.1 cm, **bottom** ~1.0 mm.*

continued on next page

Olmiite— continued from page 12

magnesium) that form deep within the earth's mantle and then rapidly and violently eject to the surface. Evidently the ejecting pipe picked up this large hunk of dolerite and shale on its way to the surface. In the U.S. bultfonteinite is uncommon but is found in the famous calc-silicate rocks from the Crestmore Quarries in California.

Bultfonteinite is usually found as small, transparent, colorless to pale pink or white, radiating prismatic acicular crystals. Crystals are vitreous, have a white streak and a hardness of ~4.5 (Mohs). They seem to look like many other white acicular globs of crystals I have seen since beginning my quest for nifty micromounts and thumbnails.

THE DESERT

Hot Kalahari

Mining dark black manganese

Finding pink olmiite

References Cited:

Cook, R. B., 2012, Connoisseur's Choice, Olmiite: Rocks and Minerals, Vol. 87, No. 2.

Tsikos, H. and J.M. Moore, 2006, The chemostratigraphy of a Paleoproterozoic MnF- BIF succession -the Voelwater Subgroup of the Transvaal Supergroup in Griqualand West, South Africa: South African Journal of Geology, v. 109.

Engonoceras belviderense

Brenden Crouch (13), McPherson Gem & Mineral Club, Kansas

There are many types of ammonites that can be found throughout Kansas. One I recently found while out with my family was the *Engonoceras belviderense*. The water level was down at Kanopolis, exposing the dark Kiowa Shale Formation. The Kiowa Formation sits between the Cheyenne Sandstone Formation and Dakota Formation. It is a marine shale that is dark grey and contains many *Turritella*.

Engonoceras is a Cretaceous fossil, and I had never seen this particular ammonite before. It was very flat and I noticed that everything was compressed looking. It had many sutures that were well preserved. All the specimens we found were heavy and appeared pyritized, or rusty from pyrite disease. Several specimens were very brassy and had a nice metallic gold color. There were even some specimens that had blue, pink, dark purple-red, and green coloration on the pyrite.

Recently there was an article online about the rainbow shimmer on ammonites.



My ammonite before (above) and after (left) being rinsed off.

continued on next page

Engonoceras belviderense — continued from page 13

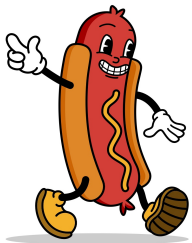
I found out that there is a gemstone made from this called ammolite, and it was caused by the mineral aragonite. Scientists measured the gaps in the aragonite crystal plates in the ammonite's nacre. The rainbow color was produced from light reflecting between gaps that were four nanometers in width. They found this was the ideal width, and many specimens of other varying widths did not produce the rainbow sheen.

I am not sure what caused the rainbow color on my pyritized specimens. It definitely is not worthy of being cut into a gemstone. There is a lot of siderite, calcite cone-in cone, selenite, limonite, and hematite on the beaches of Kanopolis. There is a possibility that the minerals that are present influenced the fossil coloration as well.



From Crack the News, May 2026

A rusty looking specimen



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.

- **Ancient ferns turned Triassic Europe into a wildfire inferno**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/07/260722032105.htm>

- **NASA satellites are watching Earth's newest island rise from the sea**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/07/260710003517.htm>

- **Earth has a natural thermostat and scientists finally know how it works**

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/07/260715083527.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>

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, @ .

8/8/26	18th Annual Gilbert Fine Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show	HD South -- Severon Center, 10 S. Gilbert Road, Gilbert, AZ 85296	Les Presmyk, presmyk@cox.net, 602.370.0639
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; Topeka GMS.org, 785-267-2849
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
11/13-15/2026	Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club	At the Mall at Sierra Vista, AZ	Jen at HMGC.Show@gmail.com
12/4-6/2026	El Paso Mineral & Gem Society	El Maida Shine Temple, 6331 Alabama Ave, El Paso, TX 79904	www.epmgsTX.org, Vendor contact is Liz K., call 915.328.5488

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		

18th Annual
GILBERT FINE MINERAL
GEM & FOSSIL SHOW



AUGUST 8, 2026
HD SOUTH – Severson Center
10 S. Gilbert Road, Gilbert, AZ 85296
✦ 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ✦

TWO FREE PRESENTATIONS 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM	FREE ADMISSION	FREE PARKING GPS: (33.3495390, -111.7911693)
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Show Produced by De Natura / Les Presmyk | Poster by Chris Whitney-Smith

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



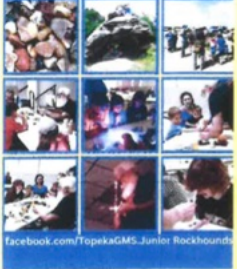
The Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Society Presents
GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
in
Silver City
NEW MEXICO



Friday, September 4 – Sunday, September 6, 2026

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show Oct. 10th & 11th 2026 at the Woodshed

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society Junior Rockhounds



facebook.com/TopekaGMS-Junior-Rockhounds

Lapidary: Cut & Polish Stones



Learn Silver
Smithing,
Wax Casting
& more



Topeka GMS.org; Call (785) 267-2849

Learn Wire
Wrapping &
other
Lapidary
Arts

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 Activites



Hosted By Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society

omgs-minerals.org

Dec. 4th-5th-6th

Friday & Saturday 10:AM - 6:PM

Sunday 10:AM - 5:PM

El Maida Shine Temple

6331 Alabama Ave.

El Paso, Texas 79904



www.epmgsTX.org

Vendor Contact Liz K. 915-328-5488
ekosturakis@gmail.com

El Paso MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY



Free Parking

Door Prizes

Free Admission

Family Friendly

Kids Activities

Rock & Mineral Vendors • Geode Cracking

Rough & Finished Rock

Slabs • Cabs • Jewelry • Beads • Fossils

Demos & Presentations • Gold Prospectors

Signup for Lapidary & Silver Smithing Clases

18TH ANNUAL GILBERT FINE MINERAL GEM & FOSSIL SHOW

*This intimate venue is the best opportunity for collectors to see
Arizona dealers' newest acquisitions.*

WHEN
Saturday, August 8, 2026
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

WHERE
HD SOUTH–Severson Center
10 S Gilbert Rd
Gilbert, AZ 85296

PARKING
GPS (33.3495390, -111.7911693)
Parking at Gilbert
Elementary School
* Enter Show West Gate.

FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • FREE PRESENTATIONS



TWO PRESENTATIONS

10:30 AM – Nathanael Brodhagen *“Cuckoo for Cacca: Unlocking the Myths & Mysteries Surrounding Ancient Poop.”*

1:00 PM – Hannah Brodhagen *“Mineral Connoisseurship: A Collector’s Guide to Fine Minerals”*

FEATURED DEALERS

De Natura
Les & Paula Presmyk
with Hannah Brodhagen
CWS Fine Minerals
Chris Whitney-Smith
with Nathanael Brodhagen
IC Minerals
Isaias Casanova
Blue Sky Minerals
Mike Hollonbeck

Shannon Family Minerals
Michael & Pat Shannon
Headframe Minerals
Don Boushelle
Made in Pangaea
Jeff & Edie Langland
The Collectors Stope
Jim McGlasson
Jade Carving Demo
Nathan Scholten

El Cucuy Minerals
Dan Fortunato
Wonder Rocks & Minerals
Cameron Reichert
Walt Johnson Minerals
Kathy Johnson
Barking Gecko Enterprises
Stan & Sue Celestian
Borussia Minerals
Boris Dimov

Show Produced by De Natura / Les Presmyk:
presmyk@cox.net | (602) 370-0639

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>

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2025-2026 Committee Chairs – *continued*

Parliamentarian	Gene Maggard	<gandpmaggard at gmail.com>
PLAC - AZ	Chuck Greenhawt	<cegca 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	Tessa Miller	<tessa.miller10 at gmail.com>
Website Contest	Leane Gray	<Lgray at wyoming.com>

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

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

AFMS Code of Ethics

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

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

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

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

Reminder — next RMF Newsletter is the September 2026 issue. Deadline for articles is August 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.

