



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S PEN



BY BILL SMITH



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Many thanks to the Colorado Springs Club for hosting the 2011 Rocky Mountain Convention and Show. It was a great event, and the Mining Museum was a perfect place for the focal point of the show. I also want to thank all the officers and delegates that attended and those clubs that sent in a Proxy. Your Proxy was very important in ensuring we had a quorum for the delegates meeting. We still don't have a club that has stepped forward to host the 2012 show and hope your club is considering having it in your city.

Janet and I have finally returned from the AFMS show and convention in Syracuse, New York. I believe I counted at least eight of us from the Rocky Mountain Federation.

We have been very busy with the fair and rodeo for the last week and finally had some free time Sunday.

I do hope you are doing some collecting. It has been running between 100° and 115° F here for the past several days with no rain. Janet and I are looking for some cooler weather before we hit the collecting trail.

Until next month,
Bill



Our bulletin is formatted to be read on-line. A printed version is also prepared using this format.

If you have suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter or how to improve it, please contact the editor.



TREASURER'S REPORT

BY GENE MAGGARD



It's September, and I am thinking about annual reports and dues. I want to get the announcement, which will go out in October, to the right person in each society. Treasurers are the people to whom I send the announcement, unless otherwise instructed by a club. Has the treasurer in your organization changed since the first of the year? If so, I need to know the name, address, telephone number and email address of your new treasurer. There seems to always be about 20 clubs for which I have the wrong contact for treasurer, and it is more trouble and time tracking down these 20 contacts than for all the 50+ other clubs, combined.

The summer is winding down. I hope that you all had a great one.

Gene Maggard
Treasurer

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Deadline

Bulletin submissions deadline is the second week of the month prior to publication date; i.e. the deadline for October's bulletin is the second week of September.

AND, IT ALL CAME CRASHING DOWN! BY BETTY CAIN, EDITOR

I have always been very careful to back up my files, make copies on CDs, and update the security programs frequently; however, it still didn't save me this summer from losing everything I needed to create the newsletter! Windows XP vs Windows Vista; Ofc Pro 2003 vs Ofc Pro+ 2007; etc. Even though I had CDs, they weren't compatible with the new software—What a mess!! So, for the first time in my many years of editing, I missed a deadline. I hope everyone will understand and forgive "my ox being in the ditch."

Sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone who participated in the Publications Contest and those who attended the Editors/Webmasters Breakfast at the June Convention and Show. The Colorado Springs club did an excellent job with the table favors, Linda Jaeger was a wonderful keynote speaker, Dr. Bob Carlson provided us with beautiful plaques, and Kaye Thompson provided the colorful ribbons. We are very proud of the great editors and authors in the Rocky Mountain region, and I sincerely hope everyone is preparing newsletters, articles, poems, and special publications for the 2012 contest. A Photo Story subcategory was added to the Features category this year. To qualify in 2012, the item must be published in 2011. Watch for the instructions and entry forms at the end of this year. If there was no delegate at the Breakfast, the awards will be mailed. The winners were:

Small Bulletins

2nd—*The Rockhound Record*, Lois Spen-doria editor

3rd—*El Gambrisino*, Maxine Wyman editor

HM—*The Voice*, Cheryl Christensen editor

Large Bulletins

2nd—*Tips & Chips*, Beth Simmons editor

3rd—*LGGMC Club News*, Bob Carnein editor

New Editor

1st—*T-Town Rockhound*, Kay Waterman & Scott Robb editors

2nd—*Pick-Hammer News*, Christine Young editor

3rd—*Pick & Pack*, Teri Stoiber & Ann Proctor editors

Wasatch News & Views, Vern Rosenstiel editor missed the entry deadline and was not judged

Adult Article

1st—Brett Whitenack, *The Post Rock*

2nd—Curley & Mary Clough, *Quarry Quips*

3rd—Don Huber, *The Post Rock*

HM—Janie Bennett, *Tips & Chips*

HM—Bob Park, *Tips & Chips*

Adult Advanced Article

1st—Bob Carnein, *LGGMC Club News*

2nd—Lawrence Skelton, *Quarry Quips*

3rd—Beth Simmons, *Tips & Chips*

Junior Article (Under 12)

1st—Ted Reeves, *Pick & Pack*

2nd—Jack Shimon, *Pick & Pack*



Junior Article (12-17)

1st—Chris Retzlaff, Victor Gordillo, Kyle Lemick, Krystal Arnold, Cameron Jesse, Kurt Lahmers, Victoria Arnold, Luke Sattler, Ciena Higginbothm, Patrick Glover, Auston Mammenga, Ruth Powell, Jessica Kennedy, *LGGMC Club News* and *Pick & Pack*

2nd—Chris Retzlaff, *Pick & Pack*

3rd—Mitchell Murphy, *The Post Rock*

HM—Carmen Amos, *The Post Rock*

Junior Poetry

1st—Angela White, *Quarry Quips*

Features-Written

1st—Mike Nelson & The Desert Group, *Pick & Pack*

2nd—Mike Wheat, *Pick & Pack*

3rd—Steven Veatch, *Pick & Pack*

HM—Richard Jaeger, *T-Town Rockhound*

HM—Bob King, *Pick & Pack*

Features-Photo Story

1st—Lyle Koerper, *Quarry Quips*

Here's how our regional winners placed in AFMS:

Small Bulletins

4th-*El Gambrisino*, Maxine Wyman editor
 10th-*The Post Rock*, Sara Murphy editor
 HM-*The Voice*, Cheryl Christensen editor
 HM-*The Rochound Record*, Lois Splendoria editor

Large Bulletins

4th-*Tips & Chips*, Beth Simmons editor
 9th-*LGGM Club News*, Bob Carnein editor

New Editor

1st-*T-Town Rockhound*, Kay Waterman & Scot Robb editors
 3rd-*Pick & Pack*, Teresa Stoiber editor
 5th-*Pick-Hammer News*, Christine Young editor

Adult Articles

1st-Lois Larson, *The Post Rock*
 4th-Brett Whitenack, *The Post Rock*
 HM-Maxine Wyman, *El Gambrisino*
 HM-Don Huber, *The Post Rock*

Adult Advanced Articles

1st-Steve Veatch, *Pick & Pack*
 2nd-Bob Carnein, *LGGM Club News*
 4th-Mike Nelson, *Pick & Pack*



7th-Lawrence Selton, *Quarry Quips*
 HM-Beth Simmons, *Tips & Chips*

Junior Articles (Under 12)

1st-Ted Reeves, *Pick & Pack*
 2nd-Aaron Hendricks, *Pick & Pack*

Junior Articles (12-17)

2nd-Chris Retzlaff, *Pick & Pack*
 3rd- Juniors Group, *Pick & Pack* and *LGGM Club News*
 5th-Mitchell Murphy, *The Post Rock*

Junior Poetry

2nd-Angie White, *Quarry Quips*

Features-Written

2nd-Mike Nelson & The Desert Group, *Pick & Pack*
 5th-Michael Mitchell, *Pick & Pack*
 HM-Mike Wheat, *Pick & Pack*
 HM-Steve Veatch, *Pick & Pack*

CONGRATULATIONS. Our winners represented RMFMS very well as we qualified to submit 23% of the entries in the AFMS contest, followed by 22% by MWF, 20% by EFMLS, 16% by SCFMS, 12% by CFMS, and 7% by NFMS. Great job by all our editors!!



AFMS 2011 SCHOLARSHIPS

BY DR. MIKE NELSON, CSMS & LGGMC



In early February 2011, I received a letter from Dee Holland, the President of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Scholarship Foundation. Among other items the letter stated: *It gives me a great deal of pleasure to confirm your selection as 2011 Honorary Award recipients from the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies for the AFMS Scholarship Foundation... With this Honorary Award goes the privilege of selecting ... two students to receive scholarship grants from our Foundation to help them achieve their educational goals. Each grant will be for the school Fall Semester 2011 and is for \$4,000.* Needless to say, I was overwhelmed with this great honor, and I want to publicly thank the Federation for their generosity and selection. It certainly is a privilege to make these selections.

Elated with this opportunity, I began to give great thought and long, careful consideration to the universities and possible student recipients. I wanted to select worthy students who were not only scholars but field geologists who had a passion for collecting rocks and fossils. I am a field geologist and have enjoyed virtually every moment spent out collecting. Well, maybe not the times getting stuck in the mud or stranded in the snow, but most moments! I also wanted the students to be well-rounded and interested in "giving back" to the community and/or university. And, I wanted students who were in financial need but who had the "hunger" and drive to complete their degrees. It would also help if I knew their mentors and could trust their judgment.

In the summer of 1966 I was a new graduate student and working for the South Dakota Geological Survey in and near Chamberlain, South Dakota, on a project involving the Cretaceous Pierre Shale. Actually, we were trying to provide information about landslides in the Pierre for the upcoming construction of Interstate 90. In rambling around through the Pierre I was constantly noticing scattered bones and teeth; most were "fish" but some appeared to be reptiles, probably swimming marine reptiles called mosasaurs. I often thought "someday", when I became an established professional geologist, that I would return to the area and collect in a scientific manner. Well, I returned to the area virtually every year since I also found my spouse during that summer! But, the collecting just did not work out as I moved on to other projects.

csrockguy@yahoo.com

During that time I also met a new undergraduate geology student by the name of **Jim Martin** who was deeply interested in the fossils and geology of South Dakota. Today that former student is an internationally-known geologist at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, a member of the South Dakota Hall of Fame, and the newly constructed James E. Martin Paleontology Research Laboratory bears his name. He is a long time friend, and I wanted his recommendation for a student.

I have selected **Mr. Allen Tate**, a new graduate student (M.S. level) at the South Dakota School of Mines, who will work on mosasaurs collected in the Pierre Shale near Chamberlain for his thesis. Allen grew up in Belvidere, Illinois, and graduated from high school in 2003. He developed an interest in paleontology as a small child and decided to take Horace Greely's advice and "head west". After much thought, he decided to attend School of Mines since their reputation in geology and paleontology is outstanding. He became interested in mosasaurs after attending the School of Mines "field school" in 2004 held near Chamberlain. Allen also wrote his senior thesis on mosasaurs collected in the Pierre Shale: *Description, Identification, and Differentiation of a Small Mosasaur from South Dakota*. I guess that once mosasaurs get in your blood they stay for a lifetime!



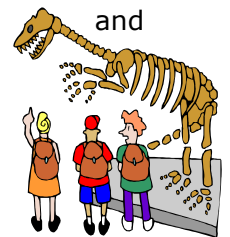
After graduating with his B.S. Degree in 2008, Allen became a wild-land fire fighter for two years, in order to save funds for continuing his education. He greatly missed paleontology and is now enrolled at School of Mines beginning Fall 2011 for his graduate degree. Since this fall is "such a long time in the future", Allen will be in Chamberlain this summer to begin collecting.

Today Allen gives back to the community by being part of the Pennington County Search and Rescue Team. His team is involved in vertical rescues, searches, vehicle extrications, and other emergency operations. With the proximity of the Black Hills to Rapid City, the team seems always busy.

I intend to return to South Dakota and observe Allen collecting in the field and to keep track of his thesis! I want to make certain that he collects all of those isolated bones remembered from my youthful college days!

In 1991 **Dr. Jason Lillegraven** from the University of Wyoming was honored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Jay is a friend of mine and over the years established a world-class reputation for geology and paleontology at the University. In particular, he maintained an active research program in the Hanna Basin of south-central Wyoming and mentored numerous students. I have always been appreciative of the University for their help with numerous personal paleontological projects.

So, in 1991 Jay awarded "his" scholarship to a new graduate student by the name of **Jaelyn Eberle**, and promptly sent her to the Hanna Basin for field work, collecting, and a thesis. She was successful in her endeavors, graduated with a Ph.D., and is now an internationally-known scientist employed in the Department of Geology at the University of Colorado. Therefore, I asked for her advice and have awarded the scholarship to **Ms. Deborah Wagner**. Deborah grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was a "late bloomer" in discovering geology; she was not hooked until completing a *History of Life* course her senior year at the University of Illinois. Although "hooked", Deborah wisely completed her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and then began to volunteer with the Geology Department at the famed Field Museum in Chicago. In 2003 she was hired as a preparator for fossil vertebrates at the Museum. In 2010 Deborah enrolled at the University of Colorado to start a Master of Science Degree in Paleontology: Museum and Field Studies. Her graduate research will concentrate on fossil mammals spanning the Paleocene-Eocene boundary (which marked the height of global warming since the extinction of the dinosaurs). Not wanting to wait for the summer collecting season to arrive, she will head to the Powder River Basin of Wyoming the first of May to get an early jump on finding those interesting critters.



After graduation, Deborah would like to work as a collections manager in a museum, preferably one

with good collections of rocks, minerals, and fossils. She also enjoys working as a docent at the University Of Colorado Museum Of Natural History, especially when leading tours that involve elementary school children. She is developing plans for a greater involvement of school children in the world of paleontology and looks forward to the day these plans may be implemented at "her" museum.

I am quite pleased with the caliber and academic achievements of these two students. Both are "non-traditional" graduate students who worked after graduation in order to save money for a graduate program, and both have that "fire in their belly" for collecting in the field. They also find time to give back to the community and to the university, and, according to their mentors, are fine citizens who are contributing members of society. In addition, they are well on the way to becoming outstanding professional geologists. I offer my sincere congratulations to Deborah and Alan.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) has been awarding scholarships to graduate students in the Earth Sciences since 1965. The scholarship fund received its start in 1962 when several AFMS officers and committee chairs raised money in order to award funding to graduate students with financial need. By 1964 the AFMS Scholarship Foundation was officially formed as a separate 501(c)3 corporation, and the original monies collected were turned over to the new Foundation. The "rules" established by the committee for this new corporation are still in use today! In 1965 the first honoree was **Dr. Richard Pearl**, Associate Professor of Geology at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the 2nd AFMS President. Dr. Pearl was allowed to select one student for the first scholarship--\$600. The fund continues to grow today due to the generosity of rockhounds and their associated clubs. To date the Foundation has awarded in excess of 1.5 million dollars directly to graduate students (no administrative institutional fees are allowed). I know the program is working since Deborah, the 2011 recipient, is a student of a former recipient (Dr. Eberle, 1991). Mr. Dee Holland graciously volunteers his time and effort to preside over the Foundation.



LOOKING FOR MISTER GOOD GUY OR GAL! BY CHERI GEORGE, AFMS WEB SITE CONTEST CHAIR

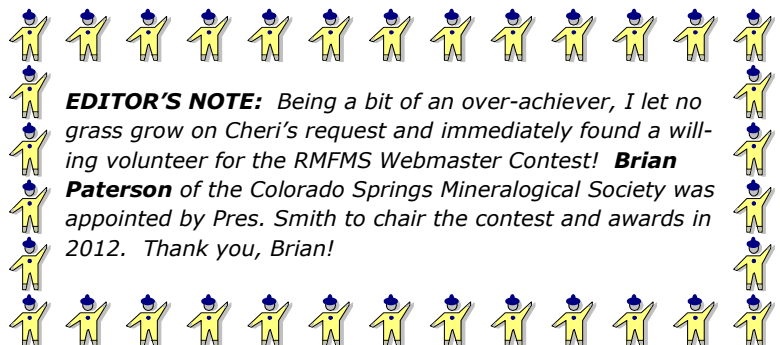
In taking over the responsibilities of AFMS Web Site Contest Chair, I have become aware of the need for a Chair Person for the Rocky Mountain Federation. Phyllis George has been holding that spot for the past three years, but she is physically unable to continue in it.

We have seven wonderful Federations and six wonderful Web Site Contest Chairs, and I speak from experience as I am one of them. The job is pretty simple, you would write three or four short articles to introduce yourself & encourage your webmasters to enter the contest, provide a closing date for the entries for your federation, collect, and send the entries out to the judges that will be assigned to your federation, average the scores, and forward the winner's entry to the AFMS Contest Chair (that would be me). All of this is done by email, so there is no messing around with snail mail.

It has always seemed that there were not enough people who realized the importance of the contest as a whole. The Web Site Contest is a great way to put a spotlight on your fabulous web sites and give your Webmasters some well deserved recognition.

Please consider volunteering to be the Web Site Contest Chair for RMFMS for the coming year, I am sure your work will be greatly appreciated.

I may be contacted by email at lizard-woman3@yahoo.com or by phone at 562-243-8470.

 **EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Being a bit of an over-achiever, I let no grass grow on Cheri's request and immediately found a willing volunteer for the RMFMS Webmaster Contest! **Brian Paterson** of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society was appointed by Pres. Smith to chair the contest and awards in 2012. Thank you, Brian!*

AFMS JUNIOR CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR BY RICHARD D. JAEGER, TULSA ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is pleased to designate **Jimmy Stirling** as our AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year. Jimmy is 14 and a freshman in high school.

Jimmy joined our club in 2009 and has been active ever since. Jimmy has become an excellent cabochon maker through working at our club workshop. He has helped out at our club shows and at Gem Faire and the Tulsa Bead Show in which we participate. At our show he has helped to sell grab bags and ran the wheel game. Jimmy has done the same at Gem Faire as well as demonstrating cabochon making; he loves to share his hobby with others. He has also displayed exhibits at those shows. Jimmy enjoys minerals and field trips.

Jimmy is a valuable member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society, and we feel he is fully deserving of this award.

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR BY RICHARD D. JAEGER, TULSA ROCK & MINERAL SOC.

The Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society is pleased to designate **Elmer Kitchell** as our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year.

Elmer has been a member of club since 1958, joining just a couple of months after the club was formed. He has held numerous offices in the club including program chairman and field trip chairman. He has participated in our shows in several capacities. Elmer, and his late wife Marie, ran a rock shop for a number of years that kept our members supplied in lapidary equipment and supplies. Elmer is in charge of acquisitions (receiving equipment and specimens) for the club. He was instrumental in helping set up our club workshop and in repairing donated equipment. Elmer is a certified gemologist and teaches faceting to our club members. Elmer Kitchell is a valuable member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society who seeks to promote our club and hobby and to share his knowledge with others.

BE SAFE – BE WELL

DON MONROE & LINDA BEHR - SAFETY COMMITTEE, SE FED OF MIN SOC., 3/11

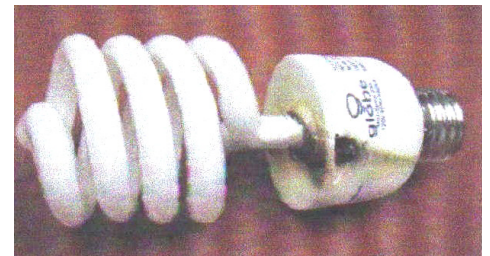
Compact Florescent Light (CFL) Bulbs

Below is a picture of a CFL light bulb from my bathroom. I turned it on the other day and smelled smoke after a few minutes. Soon, four-inch flames were spewing out of the side of the ballast like a blow torch! I immediately turned off the lights, but I'm sure it would have caused a fire if I had not been right there. Imagine if the kids had left the lights on as usual when they were not in the room.

I took this bulb to the Fire Department and reported the incident. The firefighter wasn't at all surprised and said that it was not an uncommon occurrence. Apparently, sometimes when the bulb burns out, there is a chance that the ballast can start a fire. He told me that the Fire Marshall had issued reports about the dangers of these bulbs.

Upon doing some internet research, it seems that bulbs made by "Globe" in China have the lion's share of problems. Many of these fire incidents have been blamed on misuse of CFL bulbs like using them in recessed lighting, pot light fixtures, track lighting, or in light fixtures with dimmer controls. Mine was installed in a conventional light socket.

I bought this Globe brand CFL at Wal-Mart; however, I will be removing all the Globe brand CFL bulbs from my house. CFL bulbs are a great energy saver but make sure you buy a name brand like Sylvania, Phillips, or GE and not the ones from China.



AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT BY RICHARD D. JAEGER, RMFMS ENDOWMENT FUND CHAIR

The AFMS Endowment Fund raised \$5,960 this year; that is an excellent total. In addition, there were 36 prizes donated for the drawing. I am happy to report that four of those prizes were won by members of our Rocky Mountain Federation. Two of the prizes were won by brothers in the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society; their grandfather bought them the tickets. **Austin Grayson** won a mineral specimen with sphalerite and calcite crystals, and **Mickey Grayson** won a wood burl clock w/copper slabs. **De-Lane Cox** of the Northwest Arkansas Club won a copper pendant and tie tack. A **member from Arizona** (sorry, I don't have the name) won an opal ring.

We had increased participation for the RMFMS this year; about twice as many tickets were bought as in the previous two years. I certainly want to thank our Federation members for that. Hopefully, this trend will continue next year, and we will come out with even more winners. Pam Hecht, the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing Chair, did an excellent job in promoting this function and getting people to donate prizes. Perhaps some of you will donate a prize next year and support the Endowment Fund in that fashion. I will let you know more information early next year when it becomes available.



AFMS JUDGES TRAINING CLASS BY DEE HOLLAND, AFMS JUDGES TRAINING CHAIR

Arrival, Thursday Evening **May 10, 2012**

Orientation will be held in the High Sierra Conference Room 9th floor 7pm

Holiday Inn, Sparks, (Reno) Nevada

55 East Nugget Ave – Phone: 775-358-6900

Class: **Friday May 11 & Saturday May 12, 2012**

Hours: 9am to 5pm High Sierra Conference Room, 9th Floor

Evaluation of exhibits, Sunday morning, May 13, 2012

Immediately following evaluation of exhibits will be an evaluation of class.

Cost of hotel room –1 room: 2 queen or 1 king: \$75 per day tax included

Single or Double Occupancy

Breakfast: \$8 per person or \$15 for two

Cost of the class will be \$20 for 2 days (Fri & Sat) which will include lunch

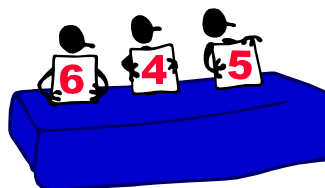
Dinner each day is on your own. There is a restaurant in the hotel

For those who would like to attend, contact Dee Holland, AFMS Judges Training Chair at:

beauholland@centurytel.net

A TWO-PAGE APPLICATION WILL BE IN THE NEXT AFMS NEWSLETTER, the first page will be information for the class, the second page will be for the Reno Gem & Mineral Society for space for exhibit and/or camper/motor home space.

The hotel has offered the same price if you wish to come in early or stay later after the classes and see the town. ...MORE NEXT MONTH



RMFMS/COLORADO SPRINGS GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

BY MARCUS CARSON

PARTS OF AN ARTICLE WRITTEN IN THE SHAWNEE SLATE, AUG 2011

Well, my first mineral (Regional) show; how exciting, or was it. To tell the truth I really expected a lot more than what was represented. The first day was interesting; the competition exhibits where good, but few. Hotel was nice, but space was limited to one room. It was packed with eight competitive exhibits and 10-12 merchants who were taking up 95% of the room. The merchants were selling everything. The pieces where beautiful, though most where from out of the country, and very pricey. So after taking a few photos for Face Book, I drove to the Museum of Mining and Industry. This show was outside and in the 90°+ heat (which was far better then the 106° back home). There where more merchants here, and the Colorado Springs Club was doing a continuous silent auction. I spoke to a few of the club members and also met some people from the local gold prospecting club. I had a pleasant time wandering and looking around; I even tried my hand at panning at the prospectors area. It was very fun and educational.

The next morning I awoke early and went to the Editors Breakfast at the hotel. I met several people from Oklahoma and neighboring states. I listened as the editors from other clubs talked about their newsletters and learned about the editor and article competitions. Seems there is more to this then I expected. Awards were given out to those who competed. One very skillful 6 year old actually won twice for an article he wrote, beating out students three times his age.

In the afternoon, I went to the Delegates Meeting at the hotel. This consisted of general business, accounting of funds, and the election of new officers for the regional forum. I listened as a few problems where brought to the attention of the regional leadership including the possible closing of Rockhound State Park in New Mexico and our own problems crystal digging in Broken Bow. Just a side note, Oklahoma was the only state to bring delegates from every club listed as a member of RMFMS. GO OKIES!!! If anyone would like a more detailed accounting, please go to the Rocky Mountain Federation web site.



Now we actually start to have fun....AKA the digging begins. We finished with the Delegates Meeting and ended our day with RMF. I wrangled my son and decided it was to early to head back to camp. Instead, we drove to the Turkey Creek Recreational Area located on Fort Carson. I spoke to the attendant and received permission to do a little exploring and rockhounding. Zach and I drove out to where we thought the rock formations looked promising and began our hunt. We headed east. It didn't take long for us to figure out most of the rock was limestone; we did find a fossil or two but nothing note worthy.

We continue on circling back around a hill and up the other side when we decided to wonder back towards the vehicle in a not-so-direct fashion. Cresting the hill, I noticed a change in the rocks. Though there were limestone plates here and there, I started to see what looked like agate to me (being a novice I will leave the actual identification to those more knowledgeable). We collected some specimens to bring back. Happy with ourselves for finding at least something, we headed back to camp at Turkey Creek Recreational Area for the night.

We were sleeping in camp around 3:30 am when I was awakened by a grating sound and claws on steel. I notice a scent in the air as I reach for my spatula. Suddenly the sound of steel on steel reverberates through the air like two armored titans slamming together swords on shields. With spatula in hand, I quietly advanced on the noise coming from the large dumpster about 150 ft from the camp. As I approached there was a low guttural grunting emanating from the far side of the large refuse bin. I stayed hidden downwind for I suspected a black bear, common to the area, was looking for food. The sound of a vehicle started in the distance. I saw the headlights come on, and the large truck pulled out and turned toward the bear and blaring the horn. The bear stands up to its full height of about 7 ft. I watched as the bear turned from the vehicle and bolted past. Lucky for the bear it didn't meet my spatula. I'm just kidding; I never left the tent! However; there was a bear, and the rest is quite accurate. Just thought I'd spice it up a bit. The bear returned several times during the week looking for food but never bothered anyone.

Just before sunrise, at about 5:45 am, I woke up Zach, and we decide that today we would try gold panning. I had talked extensively to the members of the gold prospectors club, including their president, "Big Ben". He pointed me to a place on the Arkansas River headwaters that was gold bearing and open to the pub-





lic. The area was unofficially called Point Bar located about 4 miles south of Salida, Co. With map in hand, we loaded up our gold panning equipment (shovels, pans, Screens, and 5-gal buckets) and set off for the Arkansas River. We arrived with little problem and great excitement. This area has been dug out all over, and I quickly realized that I needed more information on this area to accurately prospect. About 200 yards up the river were two men and a boy sluicing. We decide to speak with them and gain a little perspective. The father of the boy, who's name was also Mark, was very forthcoming with techniques and area information. It turned out the river was diverted in the early 1900's to put in the now abandoned train track, looming 20 ft above and behind us.

The original river bed was there for more than 10 thousand years. The prospectors dug down to the bedrock of the original river bed and pulled the gold-bearing dirt from the white layer just above the bedrock. We found a spot and picked a hole that was already started. We, as in Zach, dropped down in the hole, and together we filled a bucket with pay-dirt. We took the bucket and ran it through sifters to strain out the larger stones. We filled two buckets with pay-dirt to take home and then sat down at the river to try a little panning. It seems once you have the proper motion down and a little practice, it is very easy to do. Start with about 2 handfuls of dirt in the pan. Immerse the pan in water about an inch deeper than the dirt. Swirl the mud around to release the organic material that will float. Pour the water off, and repeat until the organic material stops surfacing. Now you're able to start separating the lighter material from the gold and black sand. The black sand is composed of mostly iron magnetite. Separate the sands by immersing the sand in water as before, swirling it around in the pan in tight circles while tipping the material into the bottom edge. This motion allows the heavier material to settle to the bottom, leaving the lighter stuff on top. Slosh the layer of material out of the pan two or three times, and then add water, swirl, and repeat until you have mostly black sand. Drain the water leaving the black sand in the opposite side of the pan in a pile. Adding a little clean water, begin turn tilting the pan, moving the water over the pile and washing small amounts of the remaining sand down to the bottom edge. When most of the remaining sand is separated, gently rinse from the pan. Now comes the exciting part. Using the same method, begin with clean water to gently wash the black sand down to the opposite side of the pan; you may want to settle the sand once more before starting. As you wash, watch for the color yellow to appear on or around the black sand. This is your gold. Separate it gently. Using a bulb syringe or tweezers pluck it from the pan. Never place your fingers in the pan as the oil from your hands will cause the gold to float on the water, and you will loose it. If you find floating gold, maneuver it over a sand-clear area, tap the bottom of the pan under it, breaking the water surface tension, and it will drop to the bottom.



The further adventures of Marcus and Zack:

Day 4 (6/27)—a peridot claim near Hartsel, CO.

Day 5 (6/28)—a smoky hawk amazonite claim near Lake George, Co. On the way back, we stopped to explore a reclaimed copper mine; the tailings are available to go through with reasonable ease. We found some not-so-good chrysoicolla specimens which was more than I expected.

Day 6 (6/29)—a barite claim in Hartsel, CO. Once more we headed out to Hartsel Co. We picked up the owner of the claim at the rock shop in Hartsel and headed to the dig site. This turned out to be one of the easier digs. The dirt was fairly loose and had been turned in the past. The owner said the government owned this site during the great wars and used the barite as a color medium for the paint on our warships. Lots of crystals where found of varying sizes, and Zack dug out a monster 12-lb cluster. The fun continued until the weather turned, and a thunderstorm reared it's lightning-laced head on the horizon. So we decided for safety that we would call it a day.

Everyone found some good pieces and had a ball playing in the sand box. On another note, the Hartsel area where most of the claims are located is in the middle of a 35 mile diameter ancient calderas centered west of the shadow of Pikes Peak. The landscape consists of cacti, thin brush, and sparse vegetation consistent with a high desert terrain, and these wonderful mountains in contrast looming in every direction.

Day 7 (6/30)—On our own and back to Hartsel for petrified wood. Once more we headed out to Hartsel; this time in hopes of finding a couple of petrified wood yard rocks. The owner of the rock shop graciously offered to meet us at his house and allow us to hunt some from his property. There where several large pieces. Zach and I settle on one extruding from the ground that appeared to be about 12-15 inches long, and it turned out to be half a log about 8-10 inches thick. Very



happy with this, we picked up several other pieces in the area and one that looked beautifully opalized. We sat and talked for an hour or so and decided to head back. We met back at his house before leaving, and he asked if we wanted to go to a site with some very pretty blue agate. Well, it was only about noon so I said, "Sure." We went to his shop and picked up another family and headed south to the site. There were lots of pieces of agate strewn throughout the area, slightly disappointing that no whole pieces were to be found. On the other hand, the pieces that we did find were banded with luminous blue hues and quite beautiful.

The full article may be found in the August Shawnee Slate at <http://www.freewebs.com/sqams>. We had hoped that the Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club would host the 2012 RMFMS Show, and Marcus and other club members would guide us on exciting field trips in Oklahoma.

TIPS . . .

USE EGGS ON BURNS! First cool down the burned area with gentle, cool water. Apply the white part of an egg to the burned area. Apply layer after layer of a beaten egg white to the burned area, allowing each layer to dry and form a healing barrier before applying the next. The placenta of an egg (white) consists of collagen and vitamins.

CUCUMBERS—Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need every day, just one cucumber contains Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Vitamin B3, Vitamin B5, Vitamin B6, Folic Acid, Vitamin C, Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Zinc.

- Feeling tired in the afternoon? Put down the caffeinated soda and pick up a cucumber for a quick pick-me-up that can last for hours.
- Rub a cucumber slice along the bathroom mirror to eliminate fog and provide a soothing, spa-like fragrance.
- Are grubs and slugs ruining your planting beds? Place a few cucumber slices in a small pie tin, and your garden will be free of pests all season long. The chemicals in the cucumber react with the aluminum to give off a scent undetectable to humans but drive garden pests crazy and make them flee the area.
- Looking for a fast and easy way to remove cellulite before going out or to the pool? Try rubbing a slice or two of cucumbers along your problem area for a few minutes, the phytochemicals in the cucumber cause the collagen in your skin to tighten, firming up the outer layer and reducing the visibility of cellulite. Works great on wrinkles too!!!
- Want to avoid a hangover or terrible headache? Eat a few cucumber slices before going to bed and wake up refreshed and headache free. Cucumbers contain enough sugar, B Vitamins, and electrolytes to replenish essential nutrients the body lost to alcohol, keeping everything in equilibrium, avoiding both a hangover and headache!!

To have your RMFMS member club sponsored event listed here, email bettycain3@comcast.net. Include the following information:

- Show dates & times
- Show location
- Phone number

- Club web site
- Sponsor (club)
- Contact name
- Email

You may include other info about your show if you wish but will only be printed as space permits.

Shows
and
More

September 23-25, 2011 Tooele, UT

Tooele Gem & Mineral Show, Dow James Bldg., 400 N. 400 W., Tooele, UT.

September 26-October 2, 2011 Idabel, OK

McCurtain County Gem & Mineral Show; contact: Cephis Hall Show Chair, 580-494-6612 or Doris Perkins Publicity Chair 580-268-3133, rperkins8236@sbcglobal.net.

October 8-9, 2011 Sierra Vista, AZ

Sierra Vista Show, Elks Lodge, Elks Lane & Wilcox Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ; contact Maudie Bailey, gmbailey@msn.com.

October 15, 2011 Tahlequah, OK

Oklahoma State Council of Mineralogical Societies old fashioned Tailgate Swap open 9a-4p to all OK & NW AR clubs in the State Council. webmaster@okmineral-societies.org, Joe Bunch kbjewelryrepair@yahoo.com, or Leon Reeder leon-reeder@hotmail.com.

October 15-16, 2011 Sedona, AZ

The Sedona Show, Sedona Red Rock High School, 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd, Sedona, AZ; contact Susan Read pdxprss@earthlink.net.

November 18-19, 2011 Payson, AZ

Payson Show, Mazatzal Hotel & Casino, Hwy 87, Mile Marker 251, Payson, AZ; contact Margaret Jones, barrythebear-jones@gmail.com.

November 26-27, 2011 Wickenburg, AZ

The Wickenburg Show, Wickenburg Community Center, Wickenburg, AZ; contact Beth Myerson myerbd@gmail.com.

All RMFMS clubs are also encouraged to register their event listings on the RMFMS web site at: www.rmfmts.org. Email your submissions to the Webmaster.

September 3-4, 2011 Silver City, NM

The Grant County Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral Club 28th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, 10a-5p, Grant County Business & Conference Center, Hwy 180 East, Silver City, NM, Marcia Andres, 575-534-0006, rolling-stonesgmsshow@gmail.com, <http://rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com/>.

September 5, 2011 Palmer, KS

North Central Kansas Gem & Mineral 2nd Annual Show, 2nd & Nadeau St, Palmer, KS; 9a-4:30p. Vendors wanted. Contact Marty Weber, 785-763-4316, martywbr@yahoo.com

September 16-18, 2011 Denver, CO

Denver Gem & Mineral Show and Colorado Fossil Show, Denver Merchandise Mart, 1-25 at 58th Ave.; Larry Havens, 303-757-6577 lghavens@aol.com (adm chg).

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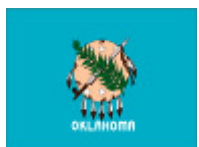
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