



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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From Your President's Pen



Bill Smith



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It has been a month of travel for Janet and me; we spent three weeks cruising Central America. Our first stop was Aruba off the coast of Argentina and then on to Cartagena, Colombia. One of our objectives while in Cartagena was to purchase an emerald specimen for the museum. This velvety green gem is very scarce, and Columbia is the source of the most, and certainly the finest, of the world's production. Emerald is a member of the beryl family, and its green color is caused by traces of chromium. We were able to make contact with Dr. Leland Miles who has been a key player in the emerald business in Cartagena for over twenty-five years. He gave us a very informative tour of the city, and then we visited his Mister Emerald shop. Our very large specimen piece and a beautiful cut emerald are on display at the museum.

[The museum mentioned is Bill and Janet's Nature Museum in Hardtner, KS. See their website at <www.bandj.naturemuseum.com>.]

We then set sail for the Panama Canal which is considered the Eighth Wonder of the World. If you have been there, I am sure you agree. Construction on the Panama Canal began in 1881 by France. During the French unsuccessful attempt to build the Canal, it is estimated that 25,000 workers died, predominately from malaria and yellow fever. The canal was completed by the US Government in 1914. This is a fresh water canal receiving its water from a 2,134 square mile watershed which flows into Gatun Lake. Act-

ing as a fresh water elevator, each vessel is lifted eighty-five feet above sea level to reach the height of Gatun Lake, being lowered back to sea level on the Canal's opposing side. It cost our ship \$147,000.00 to go through. Over forty percent of present day vessels are too large to go through the locks, and the Panamanians, who now own the Canal after the turn over by President Carter, are building a much larger set of locks along side the current locks which will continue to operate.

Our travels moved on to Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; Acapulco, Zihuatanejo, and Topolobampo, Mexico. This was a great trip with sunshine and eighty degree temperatures.

This past week we headed to the monthly meeting of the newly formed, actually a year old, North Central Kansas Rock and Gem Club. Janet has more about the meeting in this newsletter.

We headed south to Kerrville, Texas where we picked up a Mountain Lion. It is on display at the museum.

If you are on distribution for a hardcopy of this newsletter, you have not received one this year. Several of us new people did not understand the distribution process. I hope with this copy you now have received all back copies. Make sure to check to see if you have any action items that need action prior to the Wichita show.

See you in Wichita.

RMFMS SHOW, 4/23-25, WICHITA, KS.

Have you made your plans to attend the Regional Show yet? Time is flying.

Delegates and Proxy forms were published in the February newsletter. Show registration, Breakfast with the Editors & Webmasters, and the Annual Banquet form was in the March newsletter. These forms were also provided to the clubs' treasurers and are available on at <www.rmfmts.org>.

Please contact an officer, committee member, or your state director if you have any questions or need hardcopies of the forms.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAPEL PINS will be available at the Show in Wichita. To reserve your pin and ensure an adequate supply, please contact Richard Good-nough, Supplies Chair, at rockhound3@cox.net, 620-225-0101.

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Deadline

Bulletin submissions deadline is the first week of the month prior to publication date; i.e. the deadline for May's bulletin is the first week of April.



TREASURER'S REPORT

GENE MAGGARD

A few clubs still have not yet reported, so I am delaying the federation membership summary for another month. It becomes very difficult to get those last few

reports. I am down to three reports not yet in. Perhaps one more round of telephone calls will do the trick. Otherwise, I am waiting for the weather to warm up and try to find some

collectible rocks and also start catching some fish. Winter is getting pretty close to being over in Kansas, and I am glad!

CONVENTION REPORT

GENE MAGGARD

Crunch time is here for convention planning. Packets went out to the clubs in December. A few registrations are starting to trickle in. The due date is March 15th, and there

is no wiggle room. By the time you get this message, you will have two weeks to register. The Wichita Gem and Mineral Society has a great show set up for your enjoyment. The

theme is "Tri-State Treasures" and there will be some great special exhibits of Tri-State minerals and also mining artifacts. You will not be disappointed.

TUCSON DEFINITIONS

BY GEORGE CAMPBELL, OSOSOFT
MINERAL, VIA THE ROCKHOUNDER, 3/10

Keystone: ½ the price marked. The real retail price. Wholesale is less in most cases, as long as you buy in flat quantities.

Double Keystone: ¼ the price marked. This stuff has been in the dealer's stock for years and hasn't sold despite being at Tucson for 2 decades. But...look closely at this stuff...the dealer hasn't looked at it for years, and there may be a Sleeper (see below) in there.

Wholesale: The price everyone but you is paying for the same specimens.

Flat: How my wallet looks after returning from Tucson. Also a flat cardboard box, roughly 12"x18" in size, more or less full of specimens, generally boxes and labeled.

Mexican Flat: A flat with no boxes...each specimen

wrapped in very interesting foreign-language newspapers you can read after you get home. NOTE: The newspaper also hides the dings, bruises, and cracks (see below).

Killer Specimen: One you can't afford.

Sleeper: That elusive specimen in the flat which the seller missed. As in a Powellite specimen in a flat of cheap Indian zeolites.

Keeper: A specimen so overpriced that the dealer will be taking it home.

Flat Price: How much you pay for the entire flat. Generally, there's one specimen in there that makes the whole flat look good.

NFS: Not for sale. But everything's for sale!

Kid Rocks: Cheap specimens kept on hand so everyone buys.

New Find: The dealer just found this flat of specimens in the back of the storage locker just before the show.

Gemmy: You can see some light through the crystal, as long as the light is a halogen lamp.

Rare Species: Anything not available in at least 50% of the booths at the show.

Clearance Specimens: Buy these or they'll be in the dumpster when the show's over.

Museum Specimen: A specimen too large to find in any cabinet affordable by a collector. Double Keystone on this.

Mexico: The default locality for any specimen which has an unknown locality (also see: Pakistan) (also see: Russia).

RECORDS RETENTION

BY MIKE KOKINOS, CFMS TAX ADVISOR, HOURGLASS NEWS, JAN/FEB 2010

With so many clubs having new officers, it's a good time to reprint this excellent article written by Mike several years ago. These guidelines give consideration to reports required by the Internal Revenue Service, the States, and retention of historical records.

In the years I have worked with the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, the biggest problem is the loss of records. The losses occur from deaths, fire, resignations, relocations, failure to turn over records by outgoing officers and chairpersons, and DESTRUCTION.

Keeping records in an officer or member's home account for most lost records. It is imperative that a common facility be used that is accessible to all officers and committee chairpersons. Records should be neatly organized and stored in lidded record storage boxes of a uniform size. Permanent records should be stored in a fireproof file cabinet. For non-permanent records, the date of destruction should be noted on the outside of the box. A listing of the contents should be kept both inside the box and a separate listing stored with the association's current general files.

PERMANENT RECORDS:

These records must be retained for the life of the organization:

- Board Minutes
- Minutes of member meetings if business is transacted.
- Original Articles of Incorporation, including amendments and by-laws.
- Reports to state organizations that oversee non-profit public benefit corporations.
- Letters granting exemption by the Internal Revenue Service and State of Incorporation.
- General ledgers, financial statements, sales tax reports, non-profit reports to the Internal Revenue Service and state of record.
- Records of major assets and special payments.
- Membership records.
- Newsletters.
- Correspondence legal and/or other important papers.

RECORDS TO BE RETAINED 4-5 YEARS:

- Bank statements, reconciliations, deposit slips/advices/cancelled checks.
- Cash receipts and disbursements records
- Correspondence—general.
- Insurance records unless involved in litigation or other problems.

YEARLY ACTIVITIES:

One or more members of the Audit/Review Committee should do a year end review at the location where the financial records are maintained. For this review, the originals of the year end bank statements, brokerage statements, etc. should be examined. In addition, the first statements of the new year should be examined to verify balances forwarded.

Sampling of actual receipts and invoices should be verified to the entries posted in the financial records.

Receipts and disbursements should be compared with prior years and any material difference verified.

Once the annual non-profit reports are posted for mailing to the Internal Revenue Service and the State where the organization does business, they Audit/Review Committee should review a copy before mailing.

URGENT REMINDER FOR ALL CLUBS—IRS FILING

All tax-exempt organizations are now required to file either a federal tax return if their income is above a certain level (\$25,000) or file the new Form 990 (the E-Postcard). The law requiring the e-form filing has been in effect for three years.

A tax-exempt organization that does not file its required annual information Form 990 for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. **The end of 2009 marks the third year** that the law has been in effect, and many tax-exempt organizations which failed to file during that period will have their tax-exempt status revoked this year.

Organizations that are expected to lose tax-exempt status this year are small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less, and who in the past were not required to file a Form 990.

An organization that fails to file required e-Postcards Form 990-N (or information returns—Forms 990 or 990-EZ) for 2007 and 2008, it is imperative that they submit Form 990-N for 2009, by May 15, 2010, or revocation may apply.

If an organization loses its exemption, it will have to reapply with the IRS in order to regain its tax-exempt status. Any income received between the revocation date and renewed exemption may be taxable.

Be sure your organization is up to date!!

QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA 2010

BY LLWELLYN ALSPLACH, EDITOR, SHAWNEE SLATE

Klaus and I have spent January in Arizona for the past three years. Until this year, we had RV camped in Apache Junction, a southeastern suburb of Phoenix. This year we decided to give Quartzsite a try. It took three days getting out there, and we lucked out with no snow or difficult driving conditions at all. However, we camped at a park near Winslow, Arizona, and it got down to 8° F. It was definitely a two-kitten night, but we stayed warm with the gas furnace, two electric heaters, and a lot of blankets. The desert looked inviting, and we were glad to get to Quartzsite the next afternoon.



I will attempt to describe the event, which were actually mind-boggling, at best. There were vendors of every sort everywhere. You could get anything from kitten food, to RV parts, to clothing, but we were there for the rocks. It would be difficult to even estimate the number of rock vendors, and the annual Pow Wow hadn't even started yet.

Our first place to visit was the Desert Gardens Rock Show. It took us three days to get past the first row. There was a vendor from Afghanistan with a full tent of lapis in every shape and form. We had never seen that before. Expensive was not an adequate word for those rocks, investment fits better. We did manage to buy three small pieces of rough and an intarsia made of malachite and lapis. The people running the booth were very friendly and most gracious. They quickly caught on to Klaus' bargaining techniques.

Klaus got another oreodon skull before we made our way to the Australian rock booth. Last year the mookite was sold out before we got there, and we were determined to get some this year. Klaus bought a piece big enough to hopefully make a 3.5" or 4" sphere. There will be a lot of leftover slabs for me to make wire wraps.

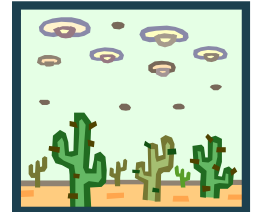
We joined the Quartzsite Roadrunners Rock Club in hopes of finding some advanced wire wrapping classes and go on some field trips, but unlike the Apache Junction Rock Club, those folks were not friendly and couldn't care less if we were there or not. They have a large lapidary shop with a lot of equipment, but there are so many rules that it is impossible to use anything. So far no fieldtrips had materialized. They have over 600 members, and I suppose the personalized, friendly approach

is not something they have time for. I guess we were spoiled by the friendly, gracious folks in the Apache Junction Rock Club and our wonderful Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club.

Speaking of the A.J. Club, I contacted them for their list of fieldtrips and asked if we could join them on some of the trips. They graciously sent their list of trips and invited us to join them. On the 13th, we met them on I-10, 14 miles east of Quartzsite, and went out to collect Brenda red jasper. It was quite a drive across the desert, down a dry river bed, and through some pretty rough country before we got to the rocks. We acquired a few of what is referred to as "Arizona racing stripes" down the sides of the pickup from sticker bushes located close to the trail we were following.

The collectable rock was plentiful, and we got a lot of really nice pieces. I found one piece of Brenda red jasper that is probably over 150 pounds and looks really good. I borrowed a dolly from another rockhound and was able to get it back to the truck. Klaus and another guy lifted it up into the pickup. We got the big one and 2 five gallon buckets full of specimens.

It felt so wonderful to be out hiking around in the desert. I really love doing that especially if there are rocks in the area. The cacti were awesome, plentiful, and of such varieties; I would love to see them bloom in the spring.



On the weekend of January 16th, we witnessed the transformation of Quartzsite; it was totally amazing! Overnight the population seemed to triple; there were RVs of every size and shape coming in by droves from every direction. It became impossible to drive around, and parking spaces were no longer to be found anywhere. If you wanted to get somewhere, walking was the fastest way to do it. People in the vendor areas were butt-to-belly (reminded me of being on Bourbon Street in New Orleans during Marde Gras). We learned a valuable lesson for visiting Quartzsite - get there early, and buy what you really want before the masses arrive. Then wait until after the Pow Wow for everything to be priced down, and you can get whatever else you wanted at a lower price.

The first day of Pow Wow was the 20th. Because there had been a lot of rain, we decided to go early and hopefully avoid getting wet as the rains usually

happen in the evenings. From 9a to 3p we walked and looked and still didn't see all that was there. The rocks and roughs were considerably more expensive than the same rocks that we saw at Desert Gardens. Klaus found the parts he needed to finish his sphere machine, got a used tumbler base for \$25 that only needed a little bit of work, and bought a very reasonably priced new vibrating tumbler. We bought some rocks and a few other things we thought we couldn't live without including crazy lace. The quantity and quality of the crazy lace had definitely declined this year.



On the 22nd we finally got to go on a field trip with the Quartzsite Club!! Looking for birds-eye rhyolite. It had been raining for a few days, and I was thinking the trip would be canceled. It wasn't, but the highway that we took had water running across it at frequent intervals. After about 25 miles of driving in the rain, we turned off the highway on to a desert trail leading to the hunting area. I believe "raging river" best described the trail. About 5-6 miles of driving in the water brought us to the hunting place. By now the wind was howling, it was very cold, but the rain had slowed to a moderate sprinkle. The trip leader showed us two finished cabs of the rhyolite, and we happily headed off hunting up the hill. To my knowledge there was only one small piece of the birds-eye found.

Due to a report of incoming high winds and heavy storms, the leader decided we should leave to avoid the water getting any higher on the trail. We made it home safely a little after noon. It was still cold and heavy rains, then the storm hit. Wind gusted to 65 mph (so the TV said), and I believe it! Our trailer was definitely rocking, and it hit so suddenly we didn't have time to get the awning retracted. By some streak of luck and a lot of Klaus' tying it down to 5 gallon buckets of rocks, our awning survived. A lot of awnings were torn off the vehicles of fellow campers. The last week had definitely not been a good example of sunny Arizona.

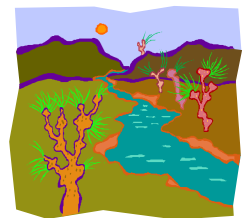
There was so much wind damage from the storm that the Pow Wow was closed down on Thursday. We went over to Desert Gardens to pick up an equipment piece Klaus had ordered from Diamond Pacific, and it looked like a war zone over there. Most tents were either totally blown away or crumpled into unusable masses. The vendors were either attempting to rebuild their booths or just packing up to leave. It was really sad. In the tents

that survived, vendors were having "glad to still be in business" sales with lots of things 50% off, so we shopped a bit more.

On the 23rd, I had a choice of going to the annual S.C.R.I.B.E. editors meeting or a field trip to get banded agate. I tried really hard to convince myself to go to the editors meeting, but in the end the rock-hunting trip won out. The trip was about 50 miles west in the Mojave Desert of California. It was an awesome area to drive through, and the road was really good with only a few areas of wet sand and water holes. The "banded agate" turned out to be a crumbly quartz vein in a ditch with a bit of pink and dark blue color in it. It wasn't even worth picking up, so we didn't stay long. Just enjoyed the drive, even saw some ocotillo cactus starting to bloom with their fiery red blossoms. I guess I should have gone to the editors meeting, might have learned something, but...

Our time quickly slipped away, and it was soon time to return home. I had started printing our newsletter, but the printer ran out of toner. To demonstrate how remote and far from anywhere this place is, I will tell you of the adventure to find another toner cartridge. We went online to find an Office Depot or Staples in the area. Blythe, California, 20 miles west, had nothing. Yuma, Arizona, 58 miles south had nothing. Phoenix is 120 miles east, too far. Lake Havasu City, 75 miles north, had a Staples store and the toner we needed. We called to be sure it was in stock before making the trip.

On Sunday the 24th, we made the drive to Lake Havasu City. What an awesomely beautiful drive it was on the edge of the Colorado River, the border between California and Arizona. The desert landscape, the river, and the mountains were so magnificent. There were numerous RV parks and Arizona State Parks along the river. We are thinking that might be the place to go next January. We got to Lake Havasu City, found the Staples, and bought the toner to finish the newsletter. After having driven 75 miles, we forgot the most important thing I wanted, margarita mix, but I did get the limes!!



FIELD TRIP—THE MUSICAL

BY MIKE WHEAT, CSMS

He had spent many years digging in the nearby mountains. He'd lost count of the number of holes he'd dug, and then re-filled, looking for the perfect amazonite and smoky quartz cluster, sky blue topaz crystals, or a handsome spray of goethite blades. Oh, he had found a few nice crystals good enough for his collection, but nothing spectacular. Most of what he dug up was more suitable for grab bags or silent auctions for kids. He longed to discover that elusive pocket, full of crystals with glassy surfaces and interiors and with classic

shape and color. If they were a bit on the large size, that would be nice too. As he watched the snow fall outside his window, he sang "The Impossible Dream" from *Man of La Mancha*.



A seed of hope was planted.

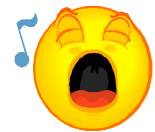
Winter passed into spring, and the days grew warmer. His eagerness grew along with them and soon peaked at unbridled enthusiasm. He thought of the treks soon to come and sang "Climb Every Mountain" from *The Sound of Music* will all the optimism he could muster.

The day finally came when the weather was just right. He checked

his equipment hopped into his Jeep and headed for higher elevations. He went to a new location he'd heard about, but when he arrived his face fell. There was evidence of previous digging everywhere. The place looked like a recent battlefield. He shrugged his shoulders and moved on.

The sun grew hot and his strength was flagging. He went to a nearby tree and sat down in the cool shade. His eyes grew heavy, and his head dropped to his chest. As he began to snooze, he felt a sharp pain coming from an area near his back

pocket. He moved over, looked down, and discovered a partially broken smoky. He looked around for signs of previous digging but found none. With mounting excitement, he began to dig. Within two feet, he hit a pegmatite. Following it carefully, he exposed a large pocket and found his every dream come true inside. With tears welling in his eyes, he sang an emotional version of "Stranger In Paradise" from *Kismet!*



NEWEST RMFMS MEMBER SOCIETY

RICHARD PARSONS, RMMA

On August 10, 2008, the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum hosted a special event drawing 20 micromineral enthusiasts for an afternoon of conversation, distribution of surplus micro material, and exploration of the potential for an ongoing group. At this meeting the Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association (RMMA) was formed.

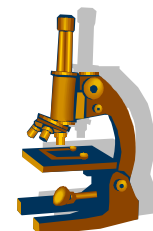
The RMMA is a fellowship whose purpose is to promote micromineral study; the preservation, mounting, and cataloging of specimens; education; and good will among its members. Members are encouraged to share knowledge, techniques, and supplies with other members.

The monthly Association meetings, hosted by the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, are very heavily oriented towards the hands-on use of microscopes, and the sharing of micro-mounts and "rough" material.

The RMMA held its first field trip in April, 2009, to Point of Rocks New Mexico for rare microminerals in a phonolite sill. The club also recently completed its first interclub exchange of microminerals with the Micromounters of New England.

After meeting informally for a little over a year, officers were elected, and the organization formalized in October, 2009. Dues were established at \$10 for an individual, and \$15 for a family. We are pleased to be the newest member society of RMFMS!

Richard Parsons,
RMMA President



DIGGING FOR SELENITE: ADVENTURE UNLEASHED IN ALFALFA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

BY AARON E. HENDRICH, CSMS PEBBLE PUPS

Note: This Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Pebble Pup lives in Yukon, Oklahoma. Since there is not a rock club or pebble pup group in his area, Aaron participates via email with the CSMS group. I also mail copies of lessons. Aaron is earning merit badges. I also have two junior members who live in the Denver area. These junior members also earn merit badges, receive copies of lessons in the mail, and have a chance to write original articles. The junior members from Denver will be participating in CSMS pebble pup/junior field trips this summer. I do require these distance pups / juniors to be paid members of CSMS so they are covered by insurance when they participate in field trips.

Steven W. Veatch, CSMS Pebble Pups Leader
 Blog: <<http://coloradoearthscience.blogspot.com>>
 Web: <<http://sites.google.com/site/veatchgeoscience/>>

Hello fellow rockhounds and all who are interested in the natural wonders of the Earth. Today I will be writing about my amazingly awesome Selenite Dig Trip. We set out at about 9am on July 19, 2009 for a 3-hour drive to a salty paradise. Much of the drive was smooth freeway, but as we neared Jet Oklahoma, we were on bumpy dirt roads until we reached the dig site. We picked a 95-degree day to dig, but the breeze over the plains kept us cool. I had so much fun on this trip, and I think that everyone should have a chance to journey to the Great Salt Plains of Oklahoma. The selenite dig area is located in Alfalfa County on the southwest end of the Great Salt Plains Lake near the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. The dig area is sectioned off, and you can only drive within the poles. The entry area has signs up that say, "Continue at your own risk." When I looked out the window of the truck, all I could see was a sea of white salt for what seemed like miles. This area was used by the US Army as



The author's dad, Chris, and other rockhounds searching for a likely spot to start digging for selenite crystals.

WWII; it was actually shut down for a while because people had been finding old military ordinances. I'm so glad they re-opened it so that we could enjoy digging there.

As I stepped out of the truck, a blast of airborne salt blew into my face. When I took a breath, it tasted

The author carefully works his selenite prospect hole located in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Photo by Dad.



salty. Quickly we unloaded our equipment. Oh, wait, I forgot to tell you about the equipment we needed to dig. One shovel, as many buckets as we could bring, gallon containers of water, towels, and some food and drinks to prevent starvation and dehydration! Okay, we stepped into the dig zone with our supplies, maneuvering around previously dug holes. The holes were filled with smelly, muddy water and surrounded by the dirt and crystals that had been dug out of them by others. All we had to do was choose a spot that we wanted to dig up.

The hole digging was easy. I helped, but my dad did most of the hard digging. When the shovel went into the ground, we could hear the crystals breaking under it. After we had dug a 2 ft wide by 2 ft deep hole, water started seeping up from the inside of the hole. I used an empty water bottle to take that water and splash it onto the sides of the hole. After a while of doing this, the dirt washed off the sides and crystals were exposed. It was like finding haystacks on top a needle. There were so many crystals that we had to decide which ones we should leave. The limit is 10 pounds and one large cluster per person. Needless to say, we found more than we imagined we would.

That day we brought home about 3 pounds of selenite crystals. Clusters, penetration twins, and single formations are the most common shapes. The ones that have the hourglass shape on the inside are most interesting to me. I also tried an experiment by licking a piece and found that it tasted salty. Yuk!

Selenite is a crystal form of gypsum. It is a hydrous calcium sulfate. Gypsum is common and takes on a great variety of crystal forms and shapes. These crystals take on the characteristics of their environment so if the soil is finer, the crystals are clearer. The chocolate brown color in the crystals comes from iron oxide. They form in wet soil, and there are sand and clay particles in the crystal. The sand and clay particles form the "hourglass" shape, found only in this area. As long as the brine solution in the ground remains the same, the crystals continue to form.

Well, that's it for now; I hope you enjoyed the article. I enjoyed writing it. Make sure you visit the Salt Plains when you're in Oklahoma and try finding a big cluster. Please keep your eye out for more articles from me.



Here are some of the selenite crystals that the author recovered from his prospect hole.

BLM UNCOMPAGRE RELEASES PROPOSED TRAVEL PLANNING DECISION (COLORADO)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Uncompahgre Field Office, has released a proposed Decision Record to change Off-Highway Vehicle designations on public lands in the Uncompahgre Field Office. The BLM proposes to amend the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan and San Juan/San Miguel Resource Management Plan (RMPs). The new plan will limit motorized and mechanized use to existing roads and trails.



This is the final step in the decision-making process for revising travel management designations and the public has until March 26, 2010, to protest the changes.

Starting in the spring of 2007, BLM worked with the public and interested user groups to develop updated travel designations. Comments were gathered and considered as the proposed changes were developed. In addition, another public comment period was held in 2008 to ensure public input. More comments were gathered during that period that helped shape the final plan.

The Uncompahgre Field Office Travel Management Plan Amendment is available for review at the Montrose Public Lands Center, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO, as well as online at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/en/fo/uso/travel_management/field_office_wide0.html.

For complete protest procedures, please contact the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO: phone (970)240-5300, email at cotmpufo@blm.gov, or go online at <http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html>.

For further information or to request a copy of the plan, contact the Montrose Public Lands Center front desk or Julie Jackson, Outdoor Recreation Planner at (970) 240-5300; or send an email to cotmpufo@blm.gov.

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national (non-profit) trail-saving group that represents over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season is beginning. Federal employees, please mark BlueRibbon Coalition and Check #11402 on your CFC pledge form to support our efforts to protect your access. Join us at 1-800-258-3742 <<http://www.sharetrails.org>>.

Editor's Note: You may want to check with the BlueRibbon Coalition to find out if this is also happening in your state. Our thanks to Shirley Leeson, AFMS Past President, for providing this information.

STAMPS COMMITTEE

SUSAN ATHENS, CHAIR

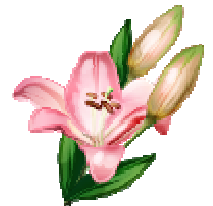
My name is Susan Athens, and I am the new Stamp Chairman (Person). I have been a member of the E.G.M.S. inc. in Enid, OK for 4 years, and that's how long I have been rock collecting, doing lapidary, and love seeing everyone's way of making jewelry. I collected rocks with my mom as a kid; they were for her flower beds. LOL. I never imagined wearing them.

The purpose of collecting used postage stamps is for the unfortunate ones that need dialysis and other required medical needs. So, please, everyone save your stamps and mail them to me. I do look forward to meeting everyone at the Shows and Swaps.

SHARING IN THE EXCITEMENT

JANET SMITH, KANSAS STATE DIRECTOR

Marty Weber, President of the North Central Kansas Rock and Gem Club, invited Bill and me to their first anniversary meeting in December. We were snowed in that week but finally were able to attend the February meeting. This is a club that is on fire. Their meetings are held at the Pony Express Cafe about five miles south of Hanover. I don't believe there is a town within fifty miles with over five thousand people yet they have over fifty members that attend from Nebraska as well as Kansas. It was very cold the night we attended with the temperature dropping to seven degrees, and they still had eighteen in attendance. They had a nice display table, a silent auction, did planning for upcoming field trips, and the most exciting of all will be their first Rock, Fossil, and Gem Show in Palmer, Kansas over the Labor Day weekend. All of this in ONE year! They will have delegates at the Wichita meeting, so make sure you say hello. I am sure they will try not to be overly excited.



RMFMS AVAILABLE SUPPLIES

Do you have a 2010 Directory? If not, you may purchase one from the Supplies Chairman, Richard Goodnough. They will also be available for sale at the Show/Convention in Wichita.

There is so much valuable information in the Directory; i.e., the Calendar of Shows, Swaps, Field Trips, Inter-Federation Trip; RMFMS Policies & Committee Duties; a list of the Program Library items available; Liability Insurance description; AFMS Scholarship history, Future Rockhound of American (FRA) program; ALAA & AFMS Land Use Policy; SCRIBE information; and last but not least the RMFMS Club Information.

How about an AFMS or RMFMS lapel button (\$2)? RMFMS Patch (\$3.50)? These are also available from the Supplies Chairman or at the Convention! If you are not able to download the RMFMS oper-

ating documents from the web site, Supplies has copies available for sale.

Stop by the Hospitality Table at the Wichita Convention to obtain these items. If you can't attend the show, please contact Richard Goodnough, 912 Otero, Dodge City, KS 67801. Call for current prices: 620-225-0101 or email rockhound3@cox.net.

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



**SHOWS
AND
MORE**

June 18-20, 2010 Whittier, CA—AFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

CFMS Show hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society, So. CA Univ. of Health Sciences Campus, 16200 E. Amber Valley, Rd., Whittier, CA. Contact: Mike Beaumont 714-510-6037, <www.nocgms.com>.

June 26-27, 2010 Colorado Springs, CO

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Annual Rock Fair at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry. Contact Ron Yamiolkoski, 719-488-5526, Ron.Yamiolkoski@aecom.com, <www.csms.us>.

August 12-15, 2010 Buena Vista, CO

"Contin-Tail" mineral show and swap, Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, CO.

August 20-22, 2010 Lake George, CO

Lake George Gem & Mineral Show, Lake George, CO. For more info see <<http://www.lggmclub.org/>>.

September 17-18, 2010 Denver, CO

Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart. For more info see <<http://www.denvermineralshow.com/>>.

September 17-19, 2010 Enid, OK

Enid Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show, Oakwood Mall, 4125 W. Owen K Garriott Rd. Contacts: Billy Wood, baronladislaus@att.net, 580-234-5344; Leon & Mary Walters, marylousreallyncethings@yahoo.com, 580-237-1177.

October 8-10, 2010 Sierra Vista, AZ

36th Annual Huachuca Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show at the Elks Lodge on Wilcox Ave. Live demonstrations, educational displays, dealers selling jewelry, gems, fossils, equipment, lapidary supplies & more! Food vendor on site!! Presented by the Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club. Contact Maudie Bailey at 520-378-6291.

December 3-5, 2010 El Paso, TX

El Paso Mineral and Gem Society Gem Show, El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama, El Paso. Contact Jeannette Carriollo, 877-533-7153, gemcenter@aol.com.

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

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.

April 3, 2010 CSM Geology Museum "Garage Sale"

Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, second "Garage Sale" from 9a until 4p in the conference room across the hall from the Museum entrance, at 1310 Maple St. (southwest corner of 13th and Maple Streets), Golden, CO. There will be a wide assortment of rocks and minerals by the flat, fossils, equipment, printed material, and miscellaneous items. Prices will drop by the hour. Weekend parking is usually never a problem. For further information please phone 303-273-3815.

April 9-11, 2010 Albuquerque, NM

Treasures of the Earth Gem & Mineral Show, Albuquerque, NM. Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10.5. Creative Arts Center @ the NM State Fair Grounds, San Pedro entrance. Contact: Paul Hlava, 505-255-5478.

April 10-11, 2010 Kingman, AZ

Mohave County Gemstoners' Wonderful World of Rocks and Minerals, Kingman Academy of Learning High School. Contact Nan Russell 928-846-0927 or visit <www.gemstoners.org>.

April 23-25, 2010 Wichita, KS—RMFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

Wichita Gem & Mineral Society's 57th annual show, Cessna Center, Wichita, KS. Contact Gene Maggard, 316-742-3746, gandpmaggard@windblue.net.

May 7-9, 2010 McPherson, KS

18th Annual McPherson Gem & Mineral Club Rock Sale & Swap, 4-H Fairgrounds, Woodside & Hickory, McPherson, KS. Contacts: Jim Nutter 1611 Jody Lande, McPherson 67460, 620-241-2433; Marvin Lundquist, 441 N. Charles, McPherson 67460, 620-241-7003.

May 14-16, 2010 Enid, OK

Enid Gem and Mineral society Annual Swap, 4125 W. Owen K Garriott Rd. Contact Stan Nowak, 580-484-2785, snowak48@yahoo.com.

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