

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION NEWS

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A MEETING OF THE MINDS BY ALICE LABONTE—EDITOR

The rockhound season is really starting to heat up – literally!

Here in Arizona we have already reached over 90 degrees and it still is early April! Our field trip season is becoming shorter (as I'm sure if you live anywhere else, your season is just starting), so that means we focus on all aspects of rockhounding, especially outreach education.

At the end of March I attended the **Flagg Mineral Foundation's 23rd Annual "Minerals of Arizona Symposium"**

(www.flaggmineralfoundation.org) I attended to hear lectures, see old (and new) friends and maybe splurge and purchase a mineral or two.

But the main reason why I attended was to participate in the **Earth Science Outreach in Arizona – Meeting of the Minds** panel. This panel was created last year as a way for like-minded outreach education earth science groups to come together and share information about their programs.

There were educators from universities, community colleges, STEM organizations, STEM festival coordinators, privately funded outreach educators, rock clubs and of course former science teachers. All these individuals have one thing in common – their love of educating children in the earth sciences.

It takes more than time, dedication, knowledge and money to run a program and this meeting was a way for educators to collaborate on challenges and success stories. "It certainly appears that

All these individuals have one thing in common – their love of educating children in the earth sciences.

... groups are growing and having great success ... in the face of diminishing resources" said **Michael Conway, Ph.D. and Chief, Geologic Extension Service with the Arizona Geological Survey**. Michael was the mediator at the meeting. "While individual success is essential to our continued well-being, we should ... strive for [Earth Science] community success that engages outlier groups who share our values and educational philosophy" said Michael.

I am writing about this meeting because I would bet that you or your club also has an extensive outreach education program.

Whether it is with a rock club, museum, university or school, all outreach programs are vital to any existing science programs.

As an outreach volunteer, I see children's faces light up when they open our bags of minerals or closely examine fossils through a microscope. Children learn through their five senses and rocks and minerals (or any of the earth sciences) assist in that learning process.

Let us know how you educate the next generation about the earth sciences - RMFMS readers would love to hear about it.



Earth Science Outreach in Arizona—Meeting of the Minds. Sponsored by the Flagg Mineral foundation. Photo courtesy of Alice LaBonte

UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Annual Silent Auction

April 10, 2015

- APEX Community Recreation Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003
- Setup starts at 5:30 pm, sale begins at 6:45 pm, checkout starts about 9:15 pm
- No early checkout
- Jewelry, gemstones, mineral specimens, craftwork, and rock-craft equipment may be available for sale
- Seller limits on number of items to sell: Club Members – No limit.
- Non-members – Maximum of 30 items
- Free admission, free parking, and free refreshments will be served
- Visitors welcome
- Cash or check only
- For more information: call **Bill Jones 303-503-6288** or email bjones.keystone@comcast.net or visit their website and for bid sheets: <http://www.peaktopeak.com/njeffco/auction.php>

Annual Show - Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society

May 2 & 3 2015

- Boulder City, Bicentennial Park
- Sat. 9am - 6pm
- Sun. 9am - 5pm
- Free admission
- For more information please contact:
Sherry Johnson at 702-525-0256 or blossom89121@yahoo.com

WGMS's 62nd Annual Rock & Gem Show

April 24, 25, 26, 2015

- Cessna Activity Center, Wichita, KS
- Fri. 9am - 6pm
- Sat. 10am - 6pm
- Sun. 10am - 5pm
- Adults: \$5.00; Ages 12-17: \$1.00; Under 12 FREE with paid Adult
- Featuring dazzling crystals, minerals, fossils and meteorites. See how rocks are cut and polished. See how unique jewelry is created using the wonders of nature. Dealers, demonstrations and exhibits. Sphere making, cabbaging, beading, arrowhead napping, faceting, wire wrapping, silversmithing, and more. Also at the Wichita Gem & Mineral Show, we will have our fluorescent room, come and look at the marvels of nature under a black light! For the kids we have grab bags, a spinning wheel, and a Jr. rockpile. The grab bags include several mineral, fossil and rock specimens. Spin the wheel for a treasure, go into the rock pile and fill a paper bag with all sorts of neat rocks. There's a silent auction table, and the "Gem Hunt." Good food, rest areas, nearby parking is also available.
- Copy the show page as a \$1.00 Discount Coupon for all adults in your party, or present it on your i-phone to admission desk, for a paperless coupon.

www.wgmsks.org/show.htm

Does your club have an upcoming show? Tell us about it.

alice.labonte.al@gmail.com

3rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show - Coconino Lapidary Club

June 5, 6 & 7, 2015

- Outdoor Market at Silver Saddle at the corner of Hwy 89 N & Silver Saddle Rd., 3.5 miles north of Flagstaff Mall.
- 9am - 4pm daily
- Free admission open air event (rain or shine)
- Raffle drawings
- Kids Activity Zone
- Come see, purchase and learn about rocks, minerals, and fossils from around the world.
- For more information or vendor contract please contact:

Wayne Scott at:
4nsgrocks@gmail.com or 928-607-3185.

2015 Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Show

August 14 & 15, 2015

- Tahlequah Community Building, 300 W. First St., Tahlequah, OK.
- Fri. 9am - 6pm
- Sat. 9am - 5pm
- Adults 18 and over: \$3.00
- Children's area
- Snack bar
- Exhibits
- Rocks, minerals, fossils and lapidary
- For more information call: **918-284-5770 or 918-456-8198**

2015 RMFMS OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

OFFICERS

President:

Diane C Weir

2300 S Union Ave
Roswell, NM 88203

575-317-6146

dcweir@cablone.net

Vice President:

Finis Riggs

1331 S. Atlanta Pl.,
Tulsa, OK 74104.

918-232-8514

lanariggs63@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Liz Thomas

13896 S. 293rd E. Ave.,
Coweta, OK 74429.

918-486-3788

bthomas630@cox.net

Treasurer:

Gene Maggard

8418 SE Hwy 77
Leon, KS 67064

316-742-3746

gandpmaggard@gmail.com

Historian:

Cinda Kunkler

210 NE 35th St.
Topeka, KS 66617

785-286-1790

cindakunkler@att.net

Past Presidents:

DeLane Cox

8152 Spanker Ridge Dr.
Bentonville, AR 72712

479-254-0894

delanec3@earthlink.com

Bill Smith

P.O. Box 311
Hardtner, KS 67057

602-296-4652

beetlebill@kanokla.net

STATE DIRECTORS

Arizona/Nevada:

Russ Stewart

1300 N. Matterhorn Rd.

Payson, A Z 85541

928-474-9712

azrusstew@npgcable.com

Colorado:

Beth Simmons

1420 S. Reed

Lakewood, CO 80232

303-986-9693

cloverknoll@comcast.net

Kansas:

Lyle Koerper

1644 Valleyview Ct.

Wichita, KS 667212

316-722-7115

jkoerper@cox.net

New Mexico/Texas:

Robert L. Carlson

1585 Los Pueblos

Los Alamos, NM 87544

505-662-5534

illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com

North Dakota:

Russ Oliger

13700 22nd Ave. SE,

Menoken, ND 58558

701-255-6440/701-400-8282

roliger@bektel.com

Oklahoma/Arkansas:

Virgil Richards

26815 51st St.

Broken Arrow, OK 74014

918-640-9592

dws@dances-with-snakes.com

South Dakota/Nebraska:

Sony Hemscher

P.O. Box 376

Piedmont, SD 57769

605-431-2755

sony2755@hotmail.com

Utah:

Tom Burchard

875 E. 4500 S.

S. Ogden, UT 84403

801-479-4286

Roxhund@aol.com

Wyoming:

Jim McGarvey

P. O. Box 116

Kinnear, WY 82516

307-856-6188

degarbey@wyoming.com

STANDING COMMITTEES

Circulation:

Vacant

Editor:

Alice LaBonte

4721 West Carla Vista Drive
Chandler, AZ 85226

602-620-1371

alice.labonte.al@gmail.com

Publications Contest Chair :

Beth Simmons

1420 S. Reed

Lakewood, CO 80232

303-986-9693

cloverknoll@comcast.net

Finance:

Robert Haines, Chair

104 S. Brookside St.

Wichita, KS 67218

316-683-9021

Wayne Cox

8152 Spanker Ridge Dr.

Bentonville, AR 72712

479-254-0894

waynec3@earthlink.com

Convention Advisory:

Robert Carlson

1585 Los Pueblos

Los Alamos, NM 87544

505-662-5534

illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com

Officers & State Directors are elected by the House of Delegates.

2015 RMFMS OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS – CONTINUED

*Executive Committee
consists of Officers,
State Directors, and
two immediate Past
Presidents.*

Insurance:

Gene Maggard
8418 SE Hwy 77
Leon, KS 67064
316-742-3746
gandpmaggard@gmail.com

RMFMS Show Chairman:

Stan Strike
2132 Gail Lane
Cody, WY 82414
307-250-1244

**wsmg-
spres@wymineralandgemsociety.
org**

Nominations:

Judy Beck
3021 E. Country Club Rd.
Salina KS 67401
785-823-7069

lkbeck@mowery-clinic.com

Robert Carlson
1585 Los Pueblos
Los Alamos, NM 87544
505-662-5534

**illegitimusnoncarbor
udum@inbox.com**

DeLane Cox
8152 Spanker Ridge Dr.
Bentonville, AR 72712
479-254-0894

delanec3@earthlink.com

Fluorescent/Technical:

Pete Modreski
3555 Mill St.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
303-425-9549

pmodreski@aol.com

Fossil Technical:

Roger Burkhalter
16560 E. Maguire Rd.
Noble, OK 73068
405-899-4260
rjb@ou.edu

Lapidary/Technical:

Mike Snively
8495 W. Starr Circle
Littleton, CO 80128
720-981-0752
photomaker@earthlink.com

Mineralogy/Technical:

Jim Hurlbut
2240 S. Adams
Denver, CO 80210
303-757-0283

jfhu@earthlink.com

Program Li- brary/Webmaster/Program Contest:

Jennifer Biddle
1620 Kingsway St.
Sapulpa, OK 74016
918-361-1957

**drainea@gmail.com
webmaster@rmfms.org**

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Boundaries:

Bill Smith
P.O. Box 311
Hardtner, KS 67057
620-296-4652
beetlebill@kanokla.net

Directory:

Jane McLaughlin
33975 Quivira
Paola, KS 66071
913-963-7253
janecwinchester@yahoo.com
**AFMS Club Rockhound of the
Year Award (ACROY):**

Richard Jaeger
3515 E. 88th St.
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
918-481-0249

RjgrSci@aol.com

All American Club:

Vacant

International Relations:

Mike Nelson
645 Popes Valley Dr
Colo. Springs, CO 80919
719-522-1608

csrockguy@yahoo.com

Long Range Planning:

Judy Beck
3021 E. Country Club Rd.
Salina KS 67401
785-823-7069

lkbeck@mowery-clinic.com

DeLane Cox
8152 Spanker Ridge Dr.
Bentonville, AR 72712
479-254-0894

delanec3@earthlink.com

Robert Carlson
1585 Los Pueblos
Los Alamos, NM 87544
505-662-5534

**illegitimusnoncarbor
udum@inbox.com**

Name Badges:

Richard Jaeger
3515 E. 88th St.
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
918-481-0249

RjgrSci@aol.com

Parliamentarian:

Gene Maggard
8418 SE Hwy 77
Leon, KS 67064
316-742-3746
gandpmaggard@gmail.com

Permanent Address/Trophies:

Robert Carlson
1585 Los Pueblos
Los Alamos, NM 87544
505-662-5534
illegitimusnoncarbor
udum@inbox.com

2015 RMFMS OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS – *CONTINUED*

Ribbons:**Richard Jaeger**

3515 E. 88th St.

Tulsa, OK 74137-2602

918-481-0249

RjgrSci@aol.com**Scholarship:****Sandy Cannedy**

15071 County Rd. 1170

Binger, OK 73009-5006

405-656-9019

jscanned@att.net**Supplies:****Kim Blanton**

728 E. Sand Dune Dr.

Sandy, UT 84094

801-604-1263

kimblanton2@aol.com**Safety:****Jeri House**

1604 Sunset Place

Roswell, NM 88203

575-622-4688

jerihouse@cableone.net**Credentials:****Jeri House**

1604 Sunset Place

Roswell, NM 88203

575-622-4688

jerihouse@cableone.net**PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY (PLAC)****Arizona:****Bill Jaeger**

3441 E. Astro St.

Hereford, AZ 85615

520-803-6590

billjaeger@hotmail.com**Harry Kilb**

3411 Tomahawk Dr.

Lake Havasu, AZ 86406

928-855-1630

hmkilb@rraz.net**Colorado:****Tim Austin**

2918 Plymouth Rd.

Grand Junction, CO 81503

970-263-7404

Austintimbarb@aol.com**Colorado/Kansas:****Mike Nelson**

645 Popes Valley Dr.

Colo. Springs, CO 80919

719-522-1608

csrockguy@yahoo.com**North Dakota:****Rodney Hickie**

1631 28th Ave. SW

Central, ND 58530

701-794-3342

Nebraska:**Leroy Meininger**

81 Toluca Lane

Gering, NE 69341

308-623-2661

prariefossil@yahoo.com**Oklahoma/Arkansas:****Bill Lyon**

112 N. Hillcrest St.

Ada, OK 74820

580-332-8666

jblyon@cableone.net**Doris Perkins**

405 SE Ave G1

Idabel, OK 74745

580-286-3133

rperkins8236@sbcglobal.net**South Dakota:****Jan Baumeister**

19702 E. Hwy.8 Sp 56

Welton, AZ 85356

928-785-3238

rockhoundgal@aol.com**Utah:****Jim Alexander**

360 5th St.

Ogden, UT 84404

801-399-0785

Jwalex1@aol.com**Wyoming:****Jim McGarvey**

P. O. Box 116

Kinnear, WY 82516

307-856-6188

degarbey@wyoming.com**UNIFORM RULES****Lee Whitebay, Chair**

4669 N. Prentice Rd.

Ponca City, OK 74604

580-765-2074

lwhitebay@sbcglobal.net**B. Jay Bowman**

191 Bowman Rd.

Ponca City, OK 74601

580-761-5966

bjb@wildblue.net**Roger Burkhalter**

16560 E. Maguire Rd.

Noble, OK 73068

405-899-4260

rjb@ou.edu**Robert Carlson**

1585 Los Pueblos

Los Alamos, NM 87544

505-662-5534

illegitimusnoncarborundum@inbox.com**Jack Thompson**

1830 Mesita Ct.

Colo. Springs, CO 80906

719-636-2978

*Committee Chairs
are appointed by
the President.*

ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR - DENVER GEM AND MINERAL GUILD

BY BETH SIMMONS, PH.D.

... instrumental in the organization of the Guild's annual show which is hosting its 50th show this year.

The Board of Directors of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild nominates Janie Bennett as their Rockhound of the Year.

Janie joined the Guild in 1981, just after she and Roger moved to Denver in the 1970s. The very next year, Janie was elected secretary of the organization and has served in that capacity ever since (OVER 30 years!) except for taking a year off when she served as president of the Guild!

Janie and Roger have been active collecting members of the Guild, participating on many club field trips and events. They have been instrumental in the organization

of the Guild's annual show which is hosting its 50th show this year. In addition, Janie has been a major volunteer with the Greater Denver Gem and Mineral Show committee and has served the last two years as the President of the Greater Gem and Mineral Council, the non-profit organization that oversees the show. The dedication Janie has shown the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild and the Greater Denver Gem and Mineral Council definitely qualifies her for the club secretary of the century and for the 2015 Rockhound of the Year Award.



Janie Bennett—Photo courtesy of Denver Gem and Mineral guild.

UPCOMING 2015 REGIONAL FEDERAL CONVENTIONS & RMFMS NOTES

Northwest Federation
April 10–12, 2015
Ogden, UT

Midwest Federation
May 23–24, 2015
Wheaton, IL

California Federation
June 12–15, 2015
Lodi, CA

Rocky Mountain Federation
July 16–18, 2015
Cody, WY

South Central Federation
October 23–25, 2015
Austin, TX

RMFMS Editor:

Alice LaBonte

4721 West Carla vista Drive,
Chandler, AZ 85226

602-620-1371

alice.labonte.al@gmail.com

Subscriptions:

Gene Maggard

8318 SE Highway 77 Leon, KS
67076

316-742-3746

gandpmaggard@gmail.com

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Directory only—\$5.00 Order from **Supplies Chair:**

Kim Blanton

728 E. Sandy Dunes Dr.
Sandy, UT 84094

801-604-1263

kimblanton2@aol.com

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GLENN LAIDLAW TRIBUTE

BY TOM DEWEY RMGS MEMBER

This story is about three people on a jade hunt, on a fantastic day. This is a story about a great guy, Glenn Alan Laidlaw. This is a story about the funniest deal he ever made in the jade field. This is in memory of him.

Glenn was born Jan 15 1952, and passed away on Feb 22 2015.

In November of 2012 it was really cold, and we had been taking out this man named John Pitcher and teaching him how to hunt jade. He was doing quite well, but we were hunting on the north side [where it's easier]. Glenn wanted to go too, so he asked if we all wanted to go over to the south side. Now John Pitcher was a really neat guy. He said, "sure, let's go over there, since it's harder to hunt there."

So we were telling him how hard it is to hunt on the way over. And Glenn joked that one of us could find jade right off the bat and make liars out of us. And we were all joking around about it.

We got over to Crooks Mountain in a place we liked to go to, we got out and started hunting around. It was cold! Glenn took off down a creek bed about 250 yards away. John Pitcher went up higher and I went on between them.

About 10 minutes into the hunt I spotted it, a little piece of apple green sticking up. John found a hand-sized piece of green quartz and he yelled to me and I yelled back to him, "Wow, this is really neat, I found it, I found it!"

I couldn't wiggle it so we called Glenn over. He was a long way off but finally made his way over. John and I showed him the green piece of quartz. Glenn frowned at me and said, "You know that, that ain't jade." He says, "where is it - really?" So, I showed him where it was, about the size of a tennis ball, maybe a little less than that. Flush with the ground. He says "Stop - don't dig it, get

your camera." So I go back to the truck to get the camera.

In the meantime, he and John are talking about what he was going to do. So when I got back, Glenn says "So this is what we're going to do. Rocky Moore used to buy the jade from you before you got out of the jade field. I've done that too. But I'm gonna do one better than Rocky. I'm going to buy it before you even dig it out of the ground."

I thought, "what?" We had no idea how big it was, we couldn't even wiggle it. He goes, "I'll give you a hundred dollars." I said, "No, I don't think so." Then he said, "I'll give you two hundred dollars!" I said, "No" ... I can't wiggle this around!" Finally I told him a price, and he agreed to it. So we started to slowly dig it out. John said "What if it's bigger than 4 or 5 pounds?" I just looked at him, and looked at Glenn. Glenn looked at me with a big smile, and I said, "Well, we'll just rene-

gotiate." Everyone started laughing.

We finally got it out and it weighed about 4 lbs. We took pictures and Glenn made me wash it off with ice-cold water. My hands are still thawing out! And Glenn, for the rest of his days, said that was the best and funniest deal he made in his entire life. It was a blast, and a memory I'll never forget. It's one that John will never forget, as well. We'll never forget Glenn.

Al Zelenak and I hunted with Glenn for about a week and a half before he passed and he did well. Glenn found a nice piece of black jade slick that fit in your hand. A really beautiful piece. We had a good time all the way home.

I'm going to buy it before you even dig it out of the ground.



In the ground.

Photos courtesy of Tom Dewey.



Sold to Glenn while in the ground.



Glenn kneeling.

MIDWEST FEDERATION 2015 YOUTH POSTER CONTEST- SPONSORED BY SUMMIT LAPIDARY CLUB

*Entries must be post
marked by May 1,
2015.*



MIDWEST FEDERATION 2015 YOUTH POSTER CONTEST

Sponsored by Summit Lapidary Club

Theme: The official state gem, mineral, rock or fossil of the state you live in.

Eligibility: Any student 1st through 8th grade.

Prizes: Each grade will have a winner.
Ribbons will be awarded 1st through 4th place.
1st through 3rd place will also receive a prize.

CONTEST RULES:

- All entries must be presented on paper 12"x18"
- Include name, address, age and school grade of participant on **BACK** of entry.
- No three dimensional posters accepted
- The title may be on front or back
- List your state and why you chose the gem, mineral, rock or fossil
- All entries become the property of the MWF and Summit Lapidary Club

SCALE OF POINTS:

- Originality and Art Work - 30 points
- Design - 25 points
- Title - 25 points
- Listing of state gem, mineral, rock or fossil and reason for your choice - 20 points

ARTWORK: Artwork on posters can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint or any other artist's medium

DEADLINE: Entries must be postmarked by May 1, 2015

SEND TO: Jennifer Fike
P.O. Box 26276
Akron, Ohio 44319

QUESTIONS: Contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email
SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com
Contest information on MWF website at www.amfed.org/mwf/

2015 RMFMS SHOW FLYER

July 16 - 18, 2015



Photo by Greg Willis



PHILIPMARTIN.COM

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

2015 MINERAL & GEM SHOW

Wyoming's Petrified Forests

Hosted by

Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society
Cody 59ers Rock Club Shoshone Rock Club

Featuring

Multi-State Dealers

Jewelry/Beads Fossils Gems
Rocks Minerals

Demonstrations/Displays

Fluorescent Light Show
Cabochon Making
Flint Knapping

Jewelry Making Lapidary Supplies

Educational Activities

Mineral/Rock Identification
Kids Rock Area Guest Speakers
Exhibits/Showcases Field Trips

JULY 16-18, 2015

Thurs 4pm-8pm ♦ Fri 10am-8pm ♦ Sat 10am-4pm

CODY HS SWEITZER GYM

920 Beck Avenue ♦ Cody, WY 82414

ADMISSION

Adults \$4 ♦ Students (K-12) \$2 ♦ Preschoolers Free



For more information, email us at
2015codyrockshow@wymineralandgemsociety.org



www.wymineralandgemsociety.org

NORTH JEFFCO GEM & MINERAL CLUB ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION- APRIL 10, 2015

If you need a finished piece of jewelry, rough material to fashion yourself, a specimen for your collection, or an interesting and fun evening, this is the place.

North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Silent Auction

Friday, April 10th, 2015

APEX Community Recreation Center
6842 Wadsworth Blvd, Arvada, CO 80003

Setup at 5:30 PM

Seller limits on number of items to sell:
Club Members – No limit
Non-members – Maximum of 30 items

Auction Begins 6:45 PM

Checkout Begins Immediately After Auction
No Early Checkout
Free Parking, Free Admission

◆ jewelry ◆ gems ◆ minerals ◆

◆ bake sale ◆ crafts ◆

◆ free refreshments ◆

◆ public invited ◆



If you need a finished piece of jewelry,
rough material to fashion yourself,
a specimen for your collection,
or an interesting and fun evening,
this is the place.



Sellers & Buyers Welcome

For more info call Bill Jones 303-503-6288
Or email bjones.keystone@comcast.net



Educational Nonprofit

2702 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Colorado Springs,
CO 80909
www.rmfmts.org

RMFMS Distribution

The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Federation is to bring a closer association of all clubs in the Society, and to promote the study of earth sciences, including the lapidary arts, the study of fossils and paleontology, and related crafts.

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. and is issued monthly (except June and July). It is a privilege of membership of the RMFMS and cannot be exchanged by the editor for individual club newsletters from other regional federations.

www.rmfmts.org