



# Rocky Mountain Federation News

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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. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is issued ten times a year (except June or 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.

## What's in this issue....

RMFMS President's Message  
RMFMS Treasurer Report  
Shows & More  
Agate Rendezvous 2009 Info

## RMFMS Web Site

[www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)

Spread the word! RMFMS Member Club newsletters can be published on the RMFMS Website. You can find them at: [http://www.rmfmts.org/club\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.rmfmts.org/club_newsletters.htm)



## We're head'en to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009"

The "Chaparral Rockhounds" of Roswell, NM, invite Rockhounds of all ages to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009", their annual 10 day, 9 night fieldtrip to Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 29 to September 7, 2009. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event".

Fieldtrips run every day from 50 to 200 miles roundtrip from base camp to collect rocks, minerals and crystals that include: Agate, Banded Agate, Blood Stone, Chalcedony, Crystalline, Flat Band Agate, Geodes, Golden Luna Agate, Hematite, Jasper, Lava's, Luna Blue Agate, Obsidian, Plume Agate, Quartz Crystals, Red Luna Agate, Snowflake Agate and Thunder Eggs just to name only a few. A couple of our fieldtrips might be into the eastern portion Arizona along the state line. Several of the areas will need a high-clearance or 4WD vehicle. If you do not have this type of vehicle, don't worry, someone would be happy to carpool with a little "\$\$\$\$" help for gas. (continued on page 4)

## President's Message

By Stan Nowak

Great news!! The Great Salt Plains hourglass selenite crystal digging area near Cherokee, Oklahoma has reopened. The regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the reopening of the area. Educational awareness of the possible hazards was a requirement for the reopening. Informational signs and brochures will be available for all concerned. The Army Corps of Engineers feels comfortable that virtually all chemical kits are removed from the area. So happy digging to all who may be passing through the area.

We are still working with clubs to host future Federation Shows. The more volunteer clubs we have gives us more areas of the federation to search and explore.

I would like to see volunteers for assistant positions for all committee positions in the federation. You can learn how various committees work while assisting. As most of these positions have been held by competent members for many years, we must remember that we do not last forever. If positions have assistants, it is easier for a smooth transition should we lose the chair due to moving, retiring, health, death, or whatever. This also holds true for State Directors as well. Get involved, enjoy, and remember this is your federation.

Happy rockhounding.

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### DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions to the bulletin is the first day of the month prior to the publication date, i.e., the deadline for November is October 1st.

## RMFMS Treasurer Report

by Gene Maggard



The end of the year rapidly approaches for RMFMS (Oct. 31 is the end of the fiscal year) and it is time to start thinking about end of the fiscal year activities and attending the RMFMS annual convention being held October 2-4 in Roswell. One thing that I am going to propose to the Executive Committee is asking the Delegates Assembly to approve discontinuance of the little "Member RMFMS" stickers used by clubs for their membership cards. This is a tedious, expensive process and seems to have no real value. Clubs that want to indicate RMFMS and/or AFMS membership on their membership cards can simply have their cards printed that way. Or, if a club has a big supply of cards, buy a rubber stamp and stamp them. Wouldn't that be a lot easier than peeling off the little sticker back and then sticking the stickers on the cards? Does your club order the stickers? If so, comments?

The club annual report, dues and optional liability insurance form will be going out in October. The most difficult and time consuming part of getting the forms back is running down new treasurers that came to office after their club's current report came in. If you are getting this newsletter, are you still a current officer? I am especially interested in treasurers, since I use the treasurer mailing list when sending out the form. If you are reading this and are no longer a current treasurer for your club, please send me the new treasurer's name, address, email and telephone number.

I hope that you are having a great summer and finding lots of nice rocks. For some of us, catching lots of nice fish is also a great pastime. Peggy and I were in Colorado trout fishing and rock hunting in July, and will be in Montana doing the same thing at the end of August. Perhaps we will meet at a choice fishing or rock hunting "honey hole."

Happy Hunting, Gene Maggard, Treasurer

# Shows & More

To have your RMFMS member club sponsored event listed here, email editor Deanna Smith, at amd9090@msn.com. Include the following info: Show dates and times, Sponsor (Club), Show Location, Contact Name, phone number, email, and Club Web Site. You may include other info about your show if you wish, but this info will only be printed if space permits.

ALL RMFMS CLUBS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER THEIR EVENT LISTINGS ON THE RMFMS WEBSITE AT: [www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org). Email your submissions to the Webmaster.

## **August 21st and 22nd, Tahlequah, OK**

Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Society's 2009 Rock & Mineral Show, Swap and Sale at the Tahlequah Community Cldg. 300 W. 1st St. Hours: Friday 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. and Saturday 9 A.M - 5 P.M. Auction at 7 P.M. on Friday. Admission Free. Special Exhibits, educational displays and children's activities. For more info, contact Janice Walkingstick at (918) 457-5001 or Sara Brasel at (918) 458-0801.

## **August 29-Sept. 7, 2009 – Apache Creek, NM**

Field Trip –see page 5 for more info.

## **September 5-7, 2009 – Silver City, NM**

Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show will be held Labor Day weekend. Hours: Sat. & Sun. 10am-5pm, Mon. 10am-4pm. Location: Silver City Recreation Center, 11<sup>th</sup> and Gold Streets. Free admission. Over 60 dealers from the United States, Mexico, Asia, and elsewhere. Activities include free Daily Field Trips, Silent Auction, the Wheel of Fortune, and Door Prizes. Food service is provided by the Silver City Lions Club. For more info, contact L. Lett at 575-538-3216 or [show09@stockmanfamily.net](mailto:show09@stockmanfamily.net) Web site: <http://rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com/>

**September 18, 19th & 20th 2009.** Enid Gem & Mineral Society's annual show - their location has changed. It will be at the Oakwood Mall in Enid. In an empty store at 4125 W. Owen Garriot Rd. ( Highway 412). For more info contact - Billy Wood President of Enid Gem & Mineral Society at (580)234-5344.

## **September 18-20<sup>th</sup> Denver, CO**

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show Sponsored by the Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council. Friday: 9am - 6pm, Saturday: 10am - 6:00pm and Sunday: 10am – 5pm  
2009 Theme: "Fossils - Windows to the Past"  
Displays \* Vendors \* Minerals \* Gems \* Jewelry \* Fossils \* Gold Panning \*  
Public Welcome! \* Free Parking!  
Denver Merchandise Mart (in the Expo Hall and Plaza) I-25 and 58th Ave, Denver, CO  
Contact: Barb Melby at (303) 233-2516  
Website: [www.DenverMineralShow.com](http://www.DenverMineralShow.com)  
General info: [info@denvermineralshow.com](mailto:info@denvermineralshow.com)

## **September 30th–Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Idabel, Ok**

McCurtain Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show and Sale, Idabel, OK. Hours 9 - 5. At Museum of the Red River, 812 SE Lincoln St. Idabel, OK  
Free admission. Show chairman: Cephis Hall, 580 494 6612

## **October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4th 2009 – RMFMS Convention – Roswell, NM**

The Chaparral Rockhounds will host the RMFMS Convention at its annual show "Roswell Rock Rendevous". See May RMFMS newsletter or website for more info.

## **Oct. 10th & 11th, 2009---Sierra Vista, Arizona:**

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Huachuca Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show at the Elks Lodge on Wilcox Avenue; Free admission and parking; live demos, educational displays, rocks, jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, equipment, lapidary supplies & more! Proceeds benefit the club's scholarship fund. Contact Ingrid at 520-459-3718 for more info.

## **November 14-15, 2009 – Socorro, New Mexico**

The New Mexico Mineral Symposium 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium, Socorro, New Mexico, Contact Dr. Virgil Lueth, [vwlueth@mtu.edu](mailto:vwlueth@mtu.edu).

## “AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009”

(continued from page 1)

The small town of Apache Creek is located in central-western New Mexico about 117 miles west of Socorro, NM, on NM-12. Apache Creek campground, used as our base camp, was a CCC Camp back in the 1930's. It is a beautiful and tranquil camping area with tall majestic pine trees for plenty of cool shade during the warm days of August. The area is spacious enough for the largest of RV's to the smallest of pup tents. Being a rustic camp area, there are no facilities, water or electricity, just one coed chemical toilet, so you must come prepared.

There are no camping fees at Apache Creek campground. The town of Apache Creek has a small country store where one can buy basics, get spring water and take showers. The small town of Reserve is eleven miles to the southwest and has a grocery store, bank/ATM, garage/gas station and a small motel for anyone who does not want to campout.

The majority of the time, Mother Nature cooperates. The weather in August has warm days in the upper 70's to 80's and cool nights in the 50's with some possible 40's and even 30's. Occasionally, late summer thundershowers may wander through the area, so come prepared. The elevation of our base camp is about 6400 feet with day outings that can be up to 9000 feet.

Every afternoon about 5:00 PM, most of the rockhounds get together to socialize and talk about the day's finds. Then everyone has supper on their own around 6:00 PM. Afterwards, we sit around the campfire and tell TALL stories of old mining, prospecting and Rockhounding glory days. The nighttime skies at Apache Creek are breathtaking. With no light pollution, one can see millions of stars. So, if you have a good pair of binoculars or a telescope, bring them for some spectacular stargazing. On both Saturday afternoons after returning from our outings, we all get together for our traditional “Apache Creek Group Photo” at 5:30 PM. Afterwards, is our traditional potluck supper at 6:00 PM. Everyone makes their

favorite camp dish and we share them while telling more stories around the campfire.

Rockhounds that show up can camp-out from a couple of nights to the entire campout. Some just come for the last weekend to visit and see old friends. Some Rockhounds camp out for over two weeks. Everyone has a great time with all the camaraderie and collecting, and everyone **ALWAYS** goes home several pounds heavier. Each year, it only gets better. We really hope that your club members can join us this year to make some new friends and really have some good old “**Rockhounding Fun and Adventure.**” For the last 10 years, we have averaged about 40 Rockhounds that have attended the campout from at least half a dozen states. Just the right size for a Rockhound get together. And folks, if you have any good unique swapping/trading material from your area, be sure to bring it. If you have a CB Radio, be sure to bring it along. We use CB Channel 7 on all our fieldtrips. When you arrive at the campground, just look for the “White Framed Canopy”, that's our HQ. Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend are open days.

**Lodging:** If you don't want to camp out, or need electricity and water for your RV, there are alternatives. Make reservations as early as possible due to Bow Hunting season for Elk, which starts on Monday the 1st. Rooms and RV spaces fill up fast.

**The Bunk House Bed & Breakfast** in Apache Creek is 505-533-6949.

**Apache Creek RV** located in nearby Cruzville is 505-533-6166. They have a Dump Station, Laundry, Propane & Showers.

**Rode Inn Motel** on Main Street in Reserve is 505-533-6661. They have Cable TV, Direct Dial Phones, Queen Beds and a Laundromat.

The Chaparral Rockhounds host AGATE RENDEZVOUS and the Rocky Mountain co-sponsor. If you plan to attend AGATE RENDEZVOUS, please RSVP by August 24th. For additional info, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS Vice President at 505-860-2455 or e-mail at:

[rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com](mailto:rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com).



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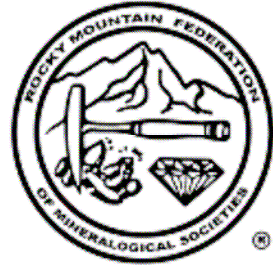
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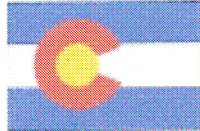
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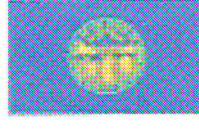
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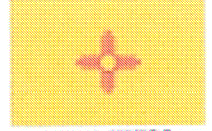
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