



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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Inside this issue:

Treasurer's Report	2
RMFMS Show Report	2
Show Field Trip	3
A Day at Florissant	3
Editors' Breakfast	4
Let's Go Digging	5
Monthly Spotlight	6
All Roads Lead to COS	7
AMFM Show Report	8
Youth Program Success	9
Shows & More	10
Ofcra & Comm. Chairs	11

From Your President's Pen



By Bill Smith



Do you know the history of "The President's Hat"? As an editor, I wondered why that hat was in each of the RMFMS presidents' pictures. Watch for story next month.

I want to thank everyone for your support at the Wichita Show and Convention. We had thirty of the seventy-two clubs represented. I certainly want to thank **Gene Maggard** and the Wichita Gem and Mineral Society for a very successful show. The field trip on Monday to the Salt Plains was a resounding success. If you missed it you do not have any of the beautiful single crystals up to fist sized clusters. See the field trip report for specifics.

We still have several vacancies to be filled. If you see any on the next to last page of the newsletter that you might be interested in let, me know. We can use your support.

We do not have a show and convention site past 2011, so talk it up with your club and give me a call. There are many of us in the RMFMS that can give you a hand.

If you write an article for the newsletter, how about also sending in a picture of yourself as it is always nice to put a face with the article.

Janet and I are planning a trip to South Dakota with two other families from the Wichita Gem and Mineral Society. I am looking forward to chasing those Fairburns, fishing, eating, drinking and just shooting the bull. I hope you have a trip in your plans.

Until next time.

We're Back From Vacation!

We enjoyed the time off, but now I have to catch up on all the great articles that have been submitted. It may take a couple of issues — thanks to all.

Remember we've gone to electronic publication and need you to provide the Editor with the email of person(s) who will make newsletter distribution to your club members, bettycain3@comcast.net.

Alan Silverstein, Pres of the Fort Collins Rockhounds Club, stated, "Instead of marking up the paper [copy] and (when time permits, which often it does not) relating a few key highlights at club meetings. That way more people hear briefly about less, whereas forwarding PDFs would give full details to the e-subset." And, it's in color!

FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK —

By Delane Cox



I had the privilege of attending the American Federation meeting in California in June as your RMFMS representative. This was my first exposure to the AmFed organization, and I was impressed at how well it was organized. I even ran into some old friends from another federation and made several new ones.

I was your representative to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation meeting. This is the group that supplies the scholarship funds that each federation awards each year. The two-year scholarships are awarded to graduate students who are working on a degree in one of the fields related to our hobby. This year \$72,000 in scholarships has been awarded. These scholarships can make a great difference to some students, keeping them in the area of interest and getting our clubs future members.

Funds for this growth opportunity come from our clubs. Every RMFMS club is encouraged to make a donation to the Scholarship Foundation through the Rocky Mountain Federation. The donations do not have to be thousands of dollars (although some clubs can and do). The recommended figure is \$1 per member. A silent auction, a live auction, a grab bag sale, a fund-raising dinner...there are many ways to raise funds without directly asking members for a donation. The funds go into an investment account that is used for these scholarships.

Is your club supporting these scholarships? If not, I hope you will consider make a donation. Bring it up at a meeting. Many people do not know of this opportunity. The future of lapidary and earth sciences is at stake.

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Deadline

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

I don't have any financial information yet, other than Admissions. Admissions were up less than \$100 from 2009, so I would expect that the financial results will be similar to last year. Overall, I think that the show was a success. We had plenty of help all four days. There was one squabble between a customer and one of our dealers, but the outcome was just fine with both parties seeming to be satisfied.

The RMFMS Convention

being held in conjunction with the show certainly made for a busy weekend for some of us. I finally started to relax and have some "chill" time on Sunday.

I want to extend a GREAT BIG THANKS to both the Show Committee and all the club members that helped at the show, and there were lots of them. Thank you very much. All your efforts are what made this show run so smoothly.



BY GENE MAGGARD

The Special Exhibits and Special Programs were great. Marv Daimon's talks were keenly interesting and informative. One thing is for sure, I would not have wanted to be a miner before the modern advent of both electricity and the Mine Safety Act. It was dark, dangerous work.

It is nice to have this one over with, but it was fun putting on the show. We need to have a wrap-up show committee meeting.

RMFMS SHOW REPORT

Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, under the Chairmanship of **Gene Maggard**, did a great job in hosting the Rocky Mountain Federation Show and Convention on April 23 – 25, 2010. We all thank them for doing so.



Dan & Ruby Lingelbach had their motor home parked with a "front-row-seat"

in the early mornings. They were privileged to witness the numbers of WGMS gold vests as members hurried into the side door of the Cessna Center to get things set up and started each morning.



RMFMS attendance was down from past

shows. Several were attending sessions at Wild Acres that happened to be the same dates. Some off the "old guard" members, like **Howie Whiting**, did not make it be-

cause his daughter, Dianne Weir, was at Wild Acres. **Louellen Montgomery** was among a group that is getting larger every year – the infirm and/or ill group. Even

several among the younger group had illnesses at just the wrong time. **Yonis Lone Eagle** had a co-worker who had a bad wreck so Yonis couldn't get off work, etc.

There were only four exhibits in competition. Two Trophies were awarded. **Dottie Smith** from Oklahoma City got one for her Mineral display, and **Bill Gay** from Roswell earned a trophy for his Bent Wire Jewelry. **Ruby Lingelbach** received a red ribbon for her new Educational display on Crinoids, and **Debbie Vick** entered another Novice display on minerals. The total number of displays and dealers is not available, but all the tables were full and attractive. Just watch for the Bulletin Contest winners, and other reports.



(L-R) Pres Bill Smith, VP Delane Cox, Tres Gene Maggard, Sec Debbie Leschner (not pictured), Dr. Bob Carlson

BY RUBY LINGELBACH

The Awards Banquet was interesting. This was the first year that "The Wearing of the Hat" had input from others attending in addition to the Past Presidents. President **Bill Smith** and Past President **Bob Carlson** were putting their ALL into the play-fun of the moment when our guest, **Jean Marie** (Lingelbach), who works for the Alfred Branch of the Wichita Public Library, stood up and said, "The Library does not allow fighting. If you are going to fight, go outside."

☺ It was a good Show.



Photos by Richard Jaeger

SHOW FIELD TRIP

BY GENE MAGGARD

The author led a joint Wichita Gem and Mineral Society/RMFMS field trip to the Great Salt Plains, OK for a selenite crystal dig. This trip was announced in both the May RMFMS Newsletter and the WGMS April newsletter. Turnout was light. **Larry Henderson**, of the Topeka Club, rode to the Salt Plains with me, and there were two other signups, neither of which showed up.



Hourglass Selenite

Larry and I arrived a little before 10am, the designated start time. We dug a test hole in front of the parking area and found only small crystals. At 10am we headed across the dig area where I had dug nice clusters a couple weeks before. We dug a test hole and immediately started finding small clusters and many singles. After about an hour's digging, we had found several nice, fist-size clusters and many smaller ones.

About that time, I noticed a girl walking across the flat towards us. It turned out to be **Beverly Mendelsolm**, Shawn Hendrichs' daughter. **Shawn, Beverly, Chris Hendrichs, Beverly Forbes**, and **Wallis Spell** were at the Editors' Breakfast to watch Shawn and Chris' son, **Aaron**, win the Junior (Under 12) Award for an article he wrote about his first selenite dig.

Shawn, Beverly, Aaron, Grandmother Beverly Forbes, and a neighbor boy, **Joey**, had just arrived to dig crystals, again. They were digging near the parking area. Beverly took a look at our findings and was "WOWed." We invited the group to join us. We provided them with some water from our supply and helped them get started digging. They were very soon finding clusters.

By this time it was about 12:30pm, and Larry and I felt that we had dug our fair share of crystals. We let the Hendrichs group start digging in our hole. Before we got packed up and left, Beverly pulled out a cluster bigger than any that we had! Shawn later related to me that she found one that she had to lift with two hands! A Minnesota couple showed up at about that time and had no clue as to how to dig. Shawn gave them some pointers; then she gave them the big cluster!

A home school group also showed up and had no clue how to find crystals. The Hendrichs got them started, and they started finding singles and cluster. That is what makes rock-hounds so special. We are always willing to share with others. It was a very good day.

A DAY OF FOSSIL DISCOVERIES AT FLORISSANT

BY STEVEN WADE VEATCH, CSMS

A group of young members from the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, the Flatirons Mineral Club, and the Western Interior Paleontological Society spent Saturday, June 19th exploring the Florissant Fossil

Beds National Monument. More than 53 parents and young "paleontologists" arrived at the fossil beds filled with excitement about the day's prospects. First,



the group attended a presentation by a park ranger and then took an educational hike through the fossil beds where they learned about fossils, how they formed, and how scientists collect them. After lunch at the picnic tables in the Ponderosa forest, the young paleontologists underwent training on how to identify different kinds of fossils.

Following their experience in the park, the group took off to the Florissant Fossil Quarry where they could experience fossil collecting and keep all of the fossils they discovered. Everyone found at least one fossil. This was a day to remember.



Photos by author



RMFMS EDITORS' AWARD BREAKFAST

BY BETTY CAIN, EDITOR & PUBLICATION CHAIR

Oh my! My first time as host of the Annual Publications Contest was a very nervous time for me. I spent several weeks gathering the entries, soliciting 2 judges for each category, providing the entries to the right judges, getting the results back, preparing the certificates, getting the winners' names to the Trophy Committee, and remembering to pack everything for the trip to Wichita. I appreciate the clubs who submitted their entries via email or allowed me to pull them from their websites; that was a great time saver. I enjoyed visiting the club websites and learned a great deal about our federation member clubs.



One of our judges was Trudy Martin, the Past President of SCRIBE who lives in Canada. I didn't think about the delivery impact that would be caused by the 2010 Olympics when I asked her to judge for us. Fortunately, Trudy, and several other judges, agreed to receive our entries via email. That worked well, and I could bug them for results. I am grateful to all the talented and highly experienced editors/authors who volunteered to judge for us this year.

Somehow I managed to get all the awards out to our winners and learned after mispronouncing several times that "there is no *FEAR* but rather a *PERSON* in McPherson" Gem & Mineral Club. ☺ Those not represented at the Editors' Breakfast received their awards via snail mail when I returned back to Colorado Springs.

CONGRATULATIONS to every club who submitted entries.

We had very good participation in the different categories this year; some of the winners were first-time participants.

The attendees enjoyed breakfast hosted by the Wichita Gem & Mineral Club. Well done—everyone liked the good food.

Here are the Top 10 winners in each category. I hope you will submit entries in the 2011 contest.

Mini Bulletins

2. *Rock, Pick & Chisel*, Delane Cox Editor, NW Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

Small Bulletins

1. *Quarry Quips*, Carolyn White Editor, Wichita Gem & Mineral Society
2. *The Rockhound Gazette*, Deleene Caldwell/Ruby Lingelbach Editors, Stillwater Gem & Mineral Society
3. *The Shawnee Slate*, Llewellyn Alsplach Editor, Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club
4. *The Voice*, Charlie Christensen Editor, El Paso Mineral & Gem Society
5. *LGGMC Club News*, Bob Carnein Editor, Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Large Bulletins

2. *Little Gems*, Donna Robinson Editor, Mohave County Gemstoners

Adult Articles

1. "My Beautiful Rock", Vivian Stockton, NW Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society

2. "Treads Create Tempest at the Loosahatchie", Linda Jaeger, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
3. "Scheelite—The Brilliant Ore of Tungston", Brett Whitenack, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
4. "Mary Anning—A very Early Fossil Collector and Paleontologist", Don Huber, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
5. "Rose Rocks, the Indian View", Harvey Shell, Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society
6. "Fossil Insects and the Elmo Fossil Beds", Susan Reimer, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
7. "Pegmatite Dikes", Mark & Julia Weaver, Mohave County Gemstoners
8. "Buena Vista Colorado, August 2009", Tony McClaffin, Wichita Gem & Mineral Society
9. "Luminescence in Rocks, Minerals and Fossils", Harlin Unruh, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club
10. "Rhyolite", Mina Sifrt, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club

Adult Advanced Articles

1. "Dryopteris: A Fossil Fern from Florissant", Steven Veatch, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
2. "The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act: What Does It Mean for LGGMC Members", Mike Nelson, Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
3. "Twinning in Crystals", Bob Carnein, Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
4. "Calcite: A Multitude of Shapes & Colors", Mike Shaw, Stillwater Gem & Mineral Club
5. "I'm Going to the Pacific Northwest", Wes Decoursey, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club

Junior Articles (Under 12)

1. "A Quick Look at Vanadinite", Aaron Hendrichs, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Junior Articles (12-17)

1. "Amber: Nature's Window to the Past", Kurt Lahmers, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
2. "A Brief History of Turquoise", Elizabeth Hixon, Wichita Gem & Mineral Society
3. "Rainbow Bismuth", Carmen Amos, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club

Written Features

1. "Scholarship Awardee's Summer Adventure", Michael Mitchell, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
2. "When "Thank You" is Just Not Good Enough!", Jack Homell, Mohave County Gemstoners
3. "From the Library", Frank Rosenberg, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
4. "The Holcim Cement Quarry Field Trip", Bob Germano, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
5. "Minutes of the November 2009 General Meeting", Fred Bunge, Mohave County Gemstoners
6. "Some Pictures from the Fair", Deleene Caldwell, Stillwater Gem & Mineral Society

Continued on next page

7. "Agate Rendezvous 2009", Melanie Hecht, Mohave County Gemstoners
8. "Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies Reborn!", Ron Yamiolkoski, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society
9. "Experience Victor, City of Mines, and Help Save the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum", Dan Alfrey, Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
10. "The Rockslide of My Life", Larry Sawyer, McPherson Gem & Mineral Club

There were no entries in New Editor, Poetry-Adult, Poetry-Junior, Drawn Features, or Special Publications. Maybe next year (?).

I look forward to the 2011 Bulletin Contest in Colorado Springs! Mark your calendars; contest entry date starts December 13, 2010 with a deadline of January 31, 2011. Entry forms will again be available at <www.rmfmns.org>.



(L-R) Dr Bob Carlson, Mary Lingelbach, Betty Cain, Janet Smith, Pres Bill Smith



Ron Yamiolkoski



Marvin Lundquest



Dr Mike Nelson

Photos by Richard Jaeger



Carolyn White



Aaron Hendrichs

LET'S GO DIGGING!

USED WITH PERMISSION OF *MINI MINERS MONTHLY*, VOL. 4, NO. 5
<WWW.DIAMONDDANPUBLICATIONS.NET>

Summertime is a great time to go digging for minerals and fossils. If you have never gone and want some guidance on how to have a successful dig, spend some time looking at video clips about mineral collecting. YouTube is a great source of digging clips. You will also want to visit <www.The-Vug.com>. Justin Zzyzx (how's that for a last name!) has a terrific website with all sorts of fun links to dealers, educational items, mineral pictures, and more. One of his links is to a series of long videos about mineral collecting around Los Angeles, California.



"But I don't live near California!" you are saying right now. It doesn't matter. Watch all of these videos and learn about digging techniques. The videos show different types of experiences you might have digging. You can even see the inside of a real working mine. What you learn from the videos you can then use to dig for specimens in your region.

As always, one of the best resources for all mineral collectors is belonging to a local mineral society or club. Nearly every society arranges a number of digs throughout the year so members can find their own minerals. For information on mineral clubs, societies and other organizations in the United States, go to this web address: <www.the-vug.com/vug/vugclubs.html>

For the videos that are linked from Justin's site, go to this web address: <www.rockhoundingvideos.com>

Happy Rockhounding this Summer!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Diamond Dan (aka Darryl Powell) awarded a one-year subscription to our 2010 Junior Author winners! I hope they will thank him for his generosity and enjoy their Mini Miners issues.

The Mini Miners Monthly is a publication for rockhounds from 5 to 100. Subscriptions: 12 issues (1 year) \$19.95. 24 issues (2 years) \$36.95. Electronic subscription (PDF) \$9.95 for 12 issues. Diamond Dan Publications, P.O. Box 143, Manchester, New York 14504 or diamonddan@rochester.rr.com.

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: THE SEDONA GEM & MINERAL CLUB

BY ED HODGES, SGMG PRESIDENT

EDITOR'S NOTE: A suggestion was made at the RMFMS Show that we showcase clubs in our federation each month so that other members may get to know them. I started with the "A" states listed in the 2010 Directory, requested input via email, and received this article from the Sedona President. I hope other clubs will provide us with some insight into their organizations for future newsletters. Thanks, Dr. Mike Nelson, CO Public Land Advisory, for the idea.



The Sedona Gem and Mineral Club is among the oldest in the State of Arizona, getting its start when Stella Ruckstahl and Grace & Ted Spencer invited some friends to the first meeting on October 19, 1956, subsequently signing up 37 charter members.

As you would expect in the community of Sedona, our Club includes among its members - authors, photographers, and many artists whose jewelry and fine art is available in the Galleries of Sedona and other southwestern art destination cities. These talented people are a rich resource for the Club, often teaching classes in their specialty for club members and making presentations at our monthly meetings as well as participating in the Club's annual Gem and Mineral Show.

Our annual "Sedona Gem and Mineral Show" will take place the weekend of October 16 and 17, 2010, from 10a-5p on Saturday and 10a-4p on Sunday, at the Sedona Red Rock High School. Admission is free. Vendors from all over the Southwest will be bringing their collections to show and sell. In addition to every imaginable gem and mineral, in both rough and finely polished states, there will be an abundance of unique, handcrafted jewelry, sculpture, and metaphysical items for sale. The show features demonstrations and expert guest lecturers, as well as a Kids Corner, raffles for valuable specimens, and displays of gems and minerals from around the world and even outer space.

The proceeds from the Sedona Gem and Mineral Club Show fund two \$1000 scholarships for deserving Red Rock High School seniors pursuing further studies in accredited colleges, universities, or schools of continuing studies in the Physical Sciences or Conservation areas. Another beneficiary is the Yavapai College Foundation that receives a gift of material for their jewelry classes.

The Sedona Gem and Mineral Club meets monthly, September through May, at the Sedona Public Library. The meetings usually include a short business meeting, a guest speaker, a raffle, and members' displays of recent finds or works of art and lapidary.

Over the last year the guest speakers for our meetings and the Club's Gem and Mineral Show have included: Wayne Ranney, a trail guide and geology interpreter for the Smithsonian and the Grand Canyon Field Institute and often appears on the History and Discovery Channels; Bob Jones, Senior Consulting Editor of Rock and Gem Magazine; Jeff Scovil, Associate Photographer for the Mineralogical Record and Rocks and Minerals magazines; Walton (Walt) Wright is an Educator/Botanist/ Ecologist/Paleontologist/Geologist/Paleobotanist speaking on the

different types and qualities of Petrified Wood; Former Club Member and Special Friend of the Club, Anna Domitrovic, Earth Science Curator Emeritus for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

At our monthly meetings you will also learn about upcoming field trips to collection sites, classes being offered in lapidary and jewelry making, and group trips to museums, and to the Tucson and Quartzite shows. Recent group trips have included the ASUs Center for Meteorite Studies in Phoenix and Kartchner Caverns near Tucson.

Our monthly meetings are free and open to the public and there is always plenty of time to peruse the displays and talk with club members. We are honored to have guests who are vacationing in Sedona show up at our meetings. We often end up exchanging newsletters with their Club.

Our Club's Newsletter, the "Sedona Red Rockin' News," is published every month September through May and is emailed or snail mailed to our members. The newsletter and more information about the Club and our members are available online. Visit the Sedona Gem and Mineral Club Web site: <www.sedonagemandmineral.org>.

**AFMS SCHOLARSHIP**

Any club wishing to donate to the scholarship fund should send a check to RMFMS Scholarship person: Sandy Cannedy; Rt 1, Box 7; Binger, OK 73009. Clubs receive "percentage points" for the donation, one point per dollar. Although \$1 per member would be good, any amount is appreciated.

Clubs can also nominate someone (perhaps a geology professor at a local university) to be the honorary scholarship awardee. He or she, if selected, is the person who will choose the two students who will receive a scholarship of \$2000/yr for 2 years (total \$4000/student).

ALL ROADS LEAD TO COLORADO SPRINGS: RMFMS 2011 PULPIT ROCK PARK

BY MIKE NELSON, CSMS

In June 2011 the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society will host the annual meeting and show of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Members and visitors traveling to Colorado Springs will be able to observe a wide variety of geological features and several field trips are in the planning stages. This article, the first of several (I hope), will give participants a chance to pre-plan their itinerary of exploring the local geology.

One of the major landforms that visitors observe while traveling along I-25, other than Pikes Peak, is the Palmer Divide, a major landform trending north-south through the northern and central parts of the city that also includes the parks/open spaces of Austin Bluffs, Pulpit Rock, and Palmer Park. The Divide, located just east of the Interstate, actually “hides” the eastern part of the city from the western locales. The parks/open spaces all beckon visitors for hikes to observe their many geological features; however, perhaps the most intriguing trek is up the prominent landmark termed Pulpit Rock (Fig. 1). This park may be accessed from a frontage road just east of the terminus of North Nevada Avenue as it merges with I-25. A small parking lot is available and several trails lead to the summit.

Before beginning the hike, visitors should look directly westward across Monument Creek and I-25 to gaze upon the nearby sandstones and shales of the late Cretaceous Laramie Formation that are well exposed in the Popes Bluff/Popes Valley area. These exposures of the Laramie Formation represent the final regression of the vast Western Interior Seaway (WIS) that flooded what is now Colorado during much of the Cretaceous Period, and whose sediments were deposited in a series of stream channels, coal swamps, and lagoons bordering the seaway. The rising Rocky Mountains to the west were responsible for providing the sediments of the Laramie Formation and for driving the WIS from the interior of the continent.

Stratigraphically above the Laramie Formation is the Dawson Formation, a unit spanning the Cretaceous-Tertiary (K-T) boundary (~65.5 my). The Dawson Formation may seem to represent continuous sedimentation from the Laramie Formation but actually there is a break in deposition and the missing rocks (unrepresented geologic time) are represented by an unconformity. This boundary between the Laramie and the

Dawson is not exposed at Pulpit Rock but lies buried beneath the valley of Monument Creek.

At Pulpit Rock the Dawson consists of two major rock units, or facies, and both are synorogenic in nature, that is the deposition of the sediments was occurring at the same time (syn) as the mountain building (orogeny) to the west. The sediments were being shed off the rising Rocky Mountains into the subsiding Denver Basin east of the mountains.

The lower exposed facies of the Dawson is a “greenish-gray to olive-brown pebbly sandstone composed almost exclusively of andesitic material” interbedded with siltstone and sandy claystone. Locally, near the base of the andesitic unit, lenticular beds of pebbly sandstone and/or conglomerate, and sandy claystone representing reworked beds of the older Pierre Shale and Fox Hills Sandstone are exposed (Thorson and others, 2001). This lower unit forms the vegetated slopes at the base of the Pulpit Rock cliffs.

Andesite is a gray, fine-grained volcanic rock, with a high percentage of plagioclase feldspars (named after rocks well exposed in the Andes Mountains); therefore, andesitic sediments contain a high percentage of fragmental volcanic andesite. However, when one examines the current mountains west of Colorado Springs large exposures of andesite are essentially absent! The question then becomes---what was the source of these sediments?

Robert Reynolds and Kirk Johnson from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science have studied extensively the sediments and rocks of the Denver Basin and

believe this episode of sedimentation represents “uplift of a portion of the Front Range bounded by the Golden and Rampart Range faults [where] andesitic volcanic rock that covered much of the Front Range was stripped from the uplift and deposited” in the Basin (Reynolds, 2002). The Rampart Range fault forms the eastern boundary of the Rampart Range near Colorado Springs. Thorson and others (2001) noted that large boulders (up to three feet) and logs (up to eight feet in length) in the andesitic sediments indicate deposition in a very energetic stream environment. All of this evidence points to a large system of overlapping braided streams and fans radiating off the rising Rampart Range, stripping off the andesite, and depositing the resulting sediments to the east of the mountains. This is a great example of sediments and rocks informing geologists about the past presence of volcanoes to the west of Colorado Springs



Fig. 1. Pulpit Rock, a recognized Colorado Springs beacon, is composed of the late Cretaceous Dawson Formation. The “andesitic facies” forms the lower vegetated slope and indicates the presence of eroded volcanoes to the immediate west of Colorado Springs in the Rampart Range. The upper “cliff forming facies” represents deposition by energetic streams flowing off the Rampart Range depositing eroded granite. Photo courtesy of Gilbert Davis.

although physical remnants (the landforms) of these volcanoes are now absent.

The upper unit of the Dawson exposed at Pulpit Rock is mostly a white to light-gray, crossbedded to massive, coarse-grained arkosic sandstone or pebble conglomerate. Locally there are gray, massive mudstones representing ancient mudflows, and brownish-gray, organic-rich siltstones to claystones representing deposition in ephemeral swamps (Thorson and others, 2001). This upper unit forms the massive cliffs and spires of Pulpit Rock proper.

There is a distinct change in composition of the rocks forming the lower unit of the Dawson from rocks in the upper unit. While the lower unit is composed of andesitic material as previously described, the upper unit is almost devoid of andesitic sandstone. Instead of the gray plagioclase feldspar common in the lower unit, the upper sandstones have a high percentage of pink feldspars characteristic of a granitic source terrain. This arkosic sandstone would seem to indicate that that a “wedge or lobe of andesite-free debris was shed eastward from a granitic source along the western edge of the basin” (Madole and Thorson, 2003). Perhaps enough of the Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks had been stripped from the rising Front Range so as to expose the Precambrian Pikes Peak Granite?

Although the Dawson Formation spans the K-T Boundary (~65.5 my) in the Denver Basin, the rocks exposed at Pulpit Rock are latest Cretaceous in age at approximately 66 my (Johnson, personal communication, 2008). Vertebrate fossils, including dinosaurs, have been collected at other localities in the Dawson Formation; however, bones seem rare or non-existent at Pulpit Rock. On the other hand, researchers from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (with appropriate collecting permits) have excavated numerous late Cretaceous leaves and other plant material from the Park. In addition, any causal hike through the Park reveals numerous pieces of petrified wood scattered about on the surface.

It has been common practice in past years to assign the lower andesitic unit of the Dawson Formation to the Denver Formation and one still hears that term used. However, Madole and Thorson (2003) have shown that the Denver Formation of the north pinches out and intertongues with the Dawson near Colorado Springs. In addition, the source areas for the Denver Formation and the andesitic facies of the Dawson Formation are different. Therefore, the use of the name Denver Formation for rocks at Colorado Springs is invalid.

The hike to the summit of Pulpit Rock is invigorating and geologically interesting. In addition to the exposures of the Dawson Formation, one has a great view of Pikes Peak and Cheyenne Mountain, the Rampart Range, Monument Creek, Rockrimmon, and Popes Bluff/Popes Valley. Time your hike in the evening and the sunset is spectacular.

Portions of this manuscript appeared previously in the CSMS *Pick & Pack*.

SOURCES CITED:

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AFMS SHOW & CONVENTION REPORT, JUNE 18 – 20, 2010

BY RICHARD JAEGER

Linda and I attended the AFMS Convention & Show in La-Habra, CA. Delane Cox, RMFMS Vice President, and Dr. Bob Carlson, sitting in for President Bill Smith who was unable to attend, represented our federation at the AFMS Board Meeting. Judy Beck, the AFMS 4th Regional VP, was also on the board; Judy was elected as the RMFMS representative to serve next year as the AFMS 2nd Vice President. The Board Meeting and the AFMS Scholarship meetings were without any major controversy.



No photo available

The show was fairly well attended. It was held at a university and occupied four small buildings; a number of things had to be set up under tents outside because of lack of space. There were 54 competitive exhibits, a large display of petrified wood rounds (lack of room prohibited additional displays) and quite a number of dealers. The Awards Banquet and Breakfast with the Editors were well attended and several Rocky Mountain Federation Clubs and members received awards. I am a little embarrassed to report that the RMF member who won a prize in the AFMS Foundation raffle was me. It was a beautiful amethyst ring, which is now my wife's property. I probably shouldn't buy a ticket myself next year.

As usual, the most enjoyable thing for me was getting to visit with people from across the United States that I only see once every year or two. The California Federation was a wonderful host for the show and their members were most helpful; we made several new friends.

Linda and I went out a couple of days early to do some sightseeing. We spent one day in Joshua Tree National Park, which is about a two-hour drive east of Orange County. We were lucky to visit it when many of the unusual high desert plants were in bloom. There was one overlook, a mile above sea level, from which you see many miles of the San Andreas Fault and the Salton Sea (235' below sea level). The next day we, along with Judy Beck, took a whale/dolphin viewing cruise from Dana Point, CA. Judy was the first to spot the one and only whale we saw. We did see scores of dolphin right along side and in front of the boat. That evening we had dinner in Laguna Beach at a patio restaurant overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The next day Linda and I hiked in Crystal Cove State Park along the ocean between Newport Beach and Laguna Beach. We met up with Judy again for another delicious dinner in Laguna Beach.

I was glad to see the Rocky Mountain Federation members who attended but wish there could have been more. You missed a great show and experience. The AFMS show next year will be July 7 – 10, 2011 in Syracuse, NY. Hope to see you there.

YOUTH PROGRAM SUCCESS

By STEVEN WADE VEATCH, CSMS

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS) participates in a youth program that creates future rockhounds of America. The CSMS does this by sponsoring a Pebble Pup and a separate Junior program. These youth programs are part



of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) "Future Rockhounds of America" (FRA) program.

Three years ago the CSMS Youth Programs became part of the AFMS merit badge program of guided activities that provides youth leaders with 53 individual

activities in 9 areas: Rocks and Minerals; Earth Resources; Fossils; Lapidary Arts; Collecting; Showmanship; Communication; Field Trips; and Leadership. In 2008, 6 new areas were added with 32 more activities on: Earth Processes; Earth in Space; Gold Panning and Prospecting; Gemstone Lore and Legend; Stone Age Tools and Art; and Rocking on the Computer. Kids can now earn badges in each of 15 overall areas. Those earning a minimum of 6 of the 15 badges earn a "Rockhound" badge as a mark of accomplishment and distinction.

Today the program consists of an FRA Membership patch, 15 badges, and a 155-page guidebook that describes and outlines requirements for each of the 15 badges. There are 85 activities to choose from, or about a half dozen activities per badge, with kids required to complete only 3 activities to earn any particular badge. Checklists in the guidebook make it easy for the leaders to sign off on activities as junior members complete them.

A typical CSMS class session will investigate a geologic process and then focus on a rock or mineral. At other times classes will devote an entire session to a lab experience such as cutting geodes in two with a diamond saw or working with microscopes. The emphasis during each session is always

learning something new that is practical for the young hobbyist.

The CSMS Youth Program has a complete schedule of field trips each year. These trips range from visiting regional museums in the winter

to collection sites in the spring and summer.

The CSMS Youth Program has four *virtual* Pebble Pups, one in Oklahoma, one in Washington, and two in Denver. These pups follow the same lessons via the Internet and do the same work to earn a merit badge. A blog is being developed now as a gateway for the CSMS distant students to experience more enhanced learning adventures. Some of the Internet students have shipped boxes of specimens from their location to the Colorado Springs group, always with enough specimens for each student in Colorado Springs to keep. The CSMS Distant Program exists to serve kids where there are no Pebble Pup programs. In other cases some of the distant students want to take a deeper dive into the world of rocks, minerals, and fossils, and the CSMS Distant Program is the best way for them to do it. Last year one of the distant learning pups wrote an article for the CSMS newsletter that won a first place award at the 2010 Rocky Mountain Federation Show held in Wichita. An Internet



junior member wrote an article for the newsletter that is just now being published by *Deposits*, an international mineral and fossil magazine. This is a really good accomplishment for a thirteen-year old (I did not get my first magazine article published until I was 52). All of the youth members are encouraged to research, write, and participate in science fairs. The CSMS

Distant Program provides the encouragement and the means to accomplish these important goals. The CSMS Distant Program may be the only one of its kind in the country.

Steven Veatch, who started the CSMS youth program in its present form, was once a Pebble Pup many decades ago. He first joined the CSMS as a pebble pup in 1964 when he was in grade school. Because the Pebble Pup program played such an important role in his life, Veatch was determined to revamp the CSMS program and connect with the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. Veatch, working with several members of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, started a second youth program in that club. There are now 3 youth programs in Colorado: Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Pebble Pups, Lake George Gem & Mineral Club Pebble Pups, and Junior Geologists of the Flatirons Mineral Club.



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
- Sponsor (club)
- Contact name
- Email

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.rmfm.org. Email your submissions to the Webmaster.

July 30–August 1, 2010 Prescott, AZ

Prescott Gem & Mineral Club Fri & Sat 9a–5p, Sunday 9a–4p. Contact name: Maggi Lieber, maggiscratch@msn.com or Judy Sullins, sullinsis@cablone.net, Club Web Site: Prescottemmineral.org.

July 31–August 7, 2010 Estate Sale, Meridian, ID

Dick & Elaine Weeks' gem & rock collection; final auction on 8/7. Call Dick at 208-888-5816 or Caroline at 208-288-0107 for inquiries.



August 12–15, 2010 Buena Vista, CO

"Contin-Tail" Mineral 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 11–12, 2010 Siloam Springs, AK

Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society Fall Rock Swap. Contact Delane Cox, 479/ 254-0894 email: delanec3@earthlink.net.

September 15–19, 2010 Denver, CO

Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show, Holiday Inn - Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St.

September 17, 2010 Denver, CO

Editors Workshop & Social, 1:00p, Denver Gem & Mineral Show. Contact Beth Simmons, 303-986-9693, colverknoll@comcast.net

September 17–18, 2010 Denver, CO

SHOWS AND MORE

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, marylousreal-lyncethings@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. Presented by the Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club. Contact Maudie Bailey at 520-378-6291.

November 13–14, 2010 Lake Havasu City, AZ

Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society's 41st Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Aquatic Center, 100 Park Ave. Contact Show Chair C. J. Stone, (928.505.2865) www.lakehavasugms.org.

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.



We're head'en to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2010"

Annual ten-day, nine-night fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 28th to September 6th, 2010. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event" for the whole family with the Rocky Mountain, California, and South Central Federations (and all other federations who wish to attend).

Collect a very wide variety of rocks, minerals, and/or crystals that can 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.

The AGATE RENDEZVOUS is hosted the Chaparral Rockhounds of Roswell, NM. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP NLT the 23rd of August. For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS New Mexico State Director at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com. All rockhounds that attend must abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies "Code of Conduct".

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