



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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January 2007

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

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Award

Oops, they changed the name on me from Each Club, Each Year, One Rockhound to the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Award but the program remains the same. It's where you honor one of your own for services to your club. The rules also remain the same. You nominate a member or couple for the honor and in approximately 150 words state why. We also ask that you indicate the club and your relationship to the honoree, such as President, Past President, Editor, Friend, etc.. Send the nomination to me at the address below and we will take it from there. If you send it to the editors, they will just send it to me and the publication will be delayed. Each club can nominate one individual or couple a year. Make sure your club does so.

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2007 RMFMS Program Competition

Please follow the rules for the AFMS Competition as posted on the AFMS website at <www.amfed.org> . If you want a printed version, please contact me, and I will send you a copy. Send 2 submittal forms - one for AFMS and one for RMFMS. The deadline for RMFMS is March 15, and the deadline for AFMS is April 15. We will automatically send your program on to AFMS before the deadline. The cash prizes for RMFMS are \$100.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place, and also for third place.

Send programs to **Nancy Hicks**
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Collinsville, OK 74021

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Thank you, Richard Jaeger, Linda Jaeger, Howie Whiting, Nancy Hicks and Kay Atkinson for your contributions to the January issue of the Rocky Mountain Federation News.

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Directory Only

\$5.00 - Order directly from:

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DEADLINE

Deadline for submissions to the bulletin are due the first day of the month prior to the publication date, i.e., the deadline for February is January 1.

President's Message

By Richard Jaeger

We are having our first taste of winter in Tulsa as I write this message. We have freezing rain and sleet at the moment with about 9 inches of snow predicted before the storm ends tonight; this will be our largest November snow fall ever recorded. There won't be much field collecting done here in the next few days. However I do have a couple of fossil sites to mention with a tale that is probably being repeated in your states. A road construction project in southern Oklahoma has uncovered literally tens - may hundreds - of thousands of fossil oyster-like pelecypods some of which are encrusted with pyrite and/or selenite crystals. Since I first discovered this location in early October about half of it has now been covered up and as the road construction proceeds this collecting location will soon disappear. So often we get these short windows of opportunity; it pays to be on constant lookout. In another instance a lake shore development in northeastern Oklahoma has virtually obliterated a superb invertebrate fossil site in which collecting has been taken place for 30 or 40 years; it will probably soon disappear altogether. Again, it pays to be on constant lookout.

I was pleased to see so many individuals contributing to our Rocky Mountain Newsletter this month. Thanks to **Diane Weir**, **Harry Kilb**, **Linda Jaeger**, **Howie Whiting**, **Gene Maggard**, **Ruby Lingelbach**, and **Doris Perkins** for submitting messages. And I wish to thank **Betty Cain** of the Colorado Springs club and **Gerry Naugle** of the Flatirons (Boulder) club for submitting AFMS Rockhound of the Year Nominations to **Howie Whiting**. Hopefully more clubs will continue to do so.

There are two new appointments to announce. **Virgil Richards** is our new Oklahoma State Director. His address is 26815 E 51st St, Broken Arrow, OK 74014 and his phone number is 918-357-2649. **Wayne Mouser** is our new Education: All-American Club chairman. His address is 1514 S Carson, Tulsa, OK 74119 and his phone number is 918-582-8700. I want to thank these two individuals for taking these positions.

Directory Assistance, Please

I am compiling club data for our 2007 Rocky Mountain Federation Directory. My job today is to get nuts and bolts facts about each of the Federation member clubs.

Can you help, please? I would need to have your 2007 slate of officers, with contact information, meeting place and time, number of members and the name of your bulletin. Please include dates and locations about any club shows, swaps or other activities open to the public. I would like to increase data in the directory about museums and places of local interest—any information about these would be a big plus.

If there is any content change you might suggest for the Directory, please include your suggestions.

Any information you could provide would help immensely. Thanks.

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QUICK TIPS for EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger
RMFMS Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: LjgrAlg@aol.com or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.

REMEMBER TO ENTER THE BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST. . .

You should now have received contest materials in the mail. If you have not received materials, please let me know by email, phone or US mail. Entries are due back to me by January 15, 2007. You should also be able to download the rules and entry forms from the RMFMS website, <www.rmfm.org> .

NEW YEAR – NEW EDITOR?

Are you a new editor? Wonder how to make your bulletin attractive, interesting, and fit your members needs? Where to get articles and clip art?

Ask your club to pay a 1-year membership to SCRIBE for you. SCRIBE is an organization for rock club bulletin editors: **S**pecial **C**ongress **R**epresenting **B**ulletin **E**ditors. A free CD of newsletters, articles, and clip art comes with the membership. Members also get together in January at Quartzsite every year. As a member of SCRIBE you will receive the SCRIBE Newsletter 4 times per year – every issue is chock full of great articles and tips for editing.

To join, contact **Robert Hughes** (Treasurer) at bjhughes@ellijay.com or 1-706-635-8249. Dues are still \$6.00 (single) or \$8.00 (couple).

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)

AFMS/RMFMS Convention and Show

The Chaparral Rockhounds have always believed that a Gem and Mineral show should have a lot of exhibits. This reason for the show is to show the public what we do and how well we do it. After all there are not many people that have cut a cab, faceted a gemstone, carved a bear or assembled a collection of rare mineral specimens. We should be proud of what we do and should display our efforts for the public.

The first Federation show this club hosted in 1976 had 142 exhibits. They came from all over the RMFMS and they were excellent exhibits. The host club managed to put in twenty but it took a lot of arm twisting to get that. After all it was just the second show for this club. Still it set a pattern. OUR SHOWS WERE TO FEATURE EXHIBITS. Which brings me to the present RMFMS show in June 2007.

Our goal is to have 150 exhibits. We can probably get 100 or so since that is what we usually have for our local show. But that still leaves us short about 50 exhibits. We ask for your help.

The Rocky Mountain Federation has some of the best collecting areas in the United States, both for minerals and for lapidary work. We would love to show the rest of the Federations what we have. But to do this we need your exhibits. PLEASE if at all possible bring an exhibit, either competitive or non-competitive to our show. If you need a case, we will have one for you. However we cannot have risers and liners but we can help you find the materials to make them if necessary. Let's make this the year of exhibits. We are going to have fun but I would also like to show the art that rockhounds produce.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



SCRIBE EXISTS TO -

- 1. Improve communications and public relations between gem, mineral, fossil societies, their federations, and other related organizations through involved bulletin editors and authors.
- 2. To advise and assist new editors with old ideas and old editors with new ideas while giving all editors a share in all ideas for publishing better bulletins.

Our SCRIBE logo was designed for SCRIBE members only. It identifies you as a member of an organization that represents the most important people in Gem & Mineral Societies. Wear it with pride. Editors are special and should be recognized as such. Ordering information for logos, patches and pins can be obtained from the Scribe Treasurer - address below.

SCRIBE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors

YES - I wish to become a member of SCRIBE.

I am Editor _____ Assistant Editor _____ Publisher _____ Former Editor _____ Author _____
Other _____ (subject to approval of Board of Directors)

If other - please give details _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, PROVINCE _____

ZIP / POSTAL CODE _____ **PHONE** _____

E-MAIL _____

Would you like to receive the bulletin via e-mail? _____

(Bulletin access is through Acrobat Reader, which is available on the internet for free.)

New ___ **Renewal** ___ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

Bulletin Name _____

Club Name _____

Federation _____

Where did you hear about **SCRIBE** _____

Yearly Dues for ALL members are \$6. single and \$8. couple payable in USA FUNDS

One copy of the annual SCRIBE CD is included with your membership. Check here and include an extra \$2 if you want an additional copy of the current SCRIBE CD full of articles, clipart, newsletters and more mailed to you.

Dues must accompany membership application for new members. Renewals also go to the Treasurer.

Make check payable to S.C.R.I.B.E. and mail to Treasurer:

**Bob Hughes, PO Box 1633, East Ellijay, GA, 30539 Phone 706-635-8249
E-mail: BJHUGHES@ellijay.com**

Check out the SCRIBE Web Site <<http://scribesite.home.att.net>>

How to Write an Article for Your Club's Bulletin *In Twelve Steps*

By Terry Yoschak, Roseville Rock Rollers Bulletin Editor

Based on "Getting Your Club to Write," by Dennis Westman, Minnesota Mineral Club, in S.C.R.I.B.E. Newsletter, Oct-Dec 2004 and On Writing, by Stephen King, Simon & Schuster, 2000.

Step 1. Pick a subject that interests you. It could be a story about something you've done (collecting agates, panning for gold), or it could be research about something you've never done (digging up dinosaur fossils in Antarctica).

Step 2. Map it out. Planning is everything. You have to figure out how to get from A to Z in your story. Outline with pencil & paper the bare bones of your story. Jot down important things you "must have" in the article (where the collecting took place, how many gold nuggets you found). Keep in mind the five W's of journalism: Who, What, Where, When, Why. Your outline should include all of them.

Step 3. Start writing. Don't worry about spelling, grammar, or punctuation. That's what editors are for. Refer back to your outline, use your own voice, and let the story flow naturally, as you would tell it to a friend. With your outline, you won't forget all those exciting tidbits you might have left out if you were just spouting off to your friends.

Step 4. Plot, characters, scenery, and dialogue. If you were submitting a movie script, you'd be kicked out of the producer's office for leaving any of these items out. A story can't be a story without them; it won't "sell" to the audience. Let's cover those four items in the next few steps.

Step 5. Plot. Writing is not rambling. The ideas of Beginning, Middle and End are universal to all stories. Usually a normal timeline is followed, where "what happened next" is the rule. The most common exception to this rule is a flashback ("The saber-toothed cat plunged into the sticky tar pit, unaware that his fossilized bones would be left for us to find 20,000 years later.")

Step 6. Characters. The people who are in the story: it's your job to describe them, from height, age, hair color and clothing, to habits and attitude. Simply writing that "Jake drove us as far as Mesquite," is not the same as writing, "With Jake's spiky green hair and his crazy attitude towards other drivers on the road, we feared we'd never make it to Mesquite." Strictly, only people can be characters, but no one will complain if animals, plants and rocks have personalities in your story as well.

Step 7. Scenery. The setting of the story, including the natural landscape and the man-made objects in

it (roads, tools, vehicles, buildings, etc.) This is where you can really get imaginative with descriptions, since no two people see the same object in the same way. If you want to describe a yellow crystal as "lemony" or an empty desert as "filled with the promise of geological secrets," it's up to you.

Step 8. Dialogue. What the characters say in the story. Though many stories are written without dialogue, it's usually more interesting if you include some. Writing that "Julie was excited about her fossil find," is less interesting than writing, "We all heard Julie yell, 'I think I found a complete tooth!'" Internal dialogue — describing your thoughts and emotions — also adds to a story, making it more compelling than a "just the facts, ma'am" report.

Step 9. Go back and revise. You've written your story by now, following Steps 1 through 8. But it's pretty rough; it could be better. Go back over it, maybe read it out loud to a friend, add a few things you forgot, or cut out some unnecessary sentences. Substitute a better word or phrase for the ones you wrote originally. Polish it. Rockhounds all know that most everything looks better with a good polish on it.

Step 10. Give your story a title. A catchy title is always a plus, and will draw readers to your story. "Titanic" is a better title than "An Interrupted Ocean Voyage." But don't go overboard! A simple, appropriate title is still better than a contrived, overly cute one.

Step 11. Space is a consideration. Everyone who writes for publication in print (bulletins, newspapers, magazines) must deal with space limitations. Cutting your work is often necessary. Writer Stephen King says that you should always cut out or condense at least one-third of everything you've written. It's like over packing for a trip: when you return home, you realize that you didn't need to cart around all that extra baggage. In the real world, an editor will have to cut your story if you don't do it yourself.

Step 12. Prepare for next time. If you weren't entirely happy with your first story, think about future possibilities. Carry a small notebook with you and jot down observations about people, scenery, conversations, etc. You'll be surprised how easily this will guide you in completing Steps 1 through 8.

Taken from the CFMS Newsletter 9/2005

*Our eyes are always the same size
from birth, but our nose and ears
never stop growing.*

SHOWS & MORE

REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

RMFMS
AFMS

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Chaparral Rockhounds
Roswell New Mexico
June 7 - 10, 2007

RMFMS
AFMS

California Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster California
June 15 - 17, 2007

Northwest Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Butte Mineral & Gem Club
Butte Montana
August 3 - 5, 2007

Midwest Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Copper County Club
Houghton Michigan
August 11 - 12, 2007

Eastern Federation Convention & Show

Hosts: Wayne County Gem & Mineral Society
Newark New York
October 6 - 7, 2007

South Central Federation Convention & Show

Hosts:
Arlington Texas
TBA

Southeast Federation Convention & Show

Hosts:
TBA

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

January 19 – 21, 2007, Globe, AZ

50th Annual Gila County Gem & Mineral Show, located at the Gila County Fairgrounds, Dealers and Demonstrations. Contact: Gill Morrow, Show Chairman, 928-812-0561, or Clyde Caviness, Dealer Chairman, 928-425-7200

March 16 - 18, 2007, Albuquerque, NM

“*Treasurer’s of the Earth*” (TotE) 2007, ABQ Gem & Mineral Club’s 38th annual show. March 16 - 18, 2007. School Arts/Flower bldg. at the Fairgrounds. Enter from San Pedro about two blocks north of Central. This year’s theme mineral is Turquoise. Admission \$3.00 (Friday is Buck Day!) children under 13 are free. State Fair parking \$5.00. Contact info - Show Chairman Paul Hlava 505-255-5478. www.agmc.info

March 23 – 25, 2007, Fort Collins, CO

46th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Sponsored by Fort Collins Rockhounds, Inc. (club). Located at Lincoln Center, 419 W. Magnolia St. Contacts: Show chairman: 970-493-6168, Dealer information: 970-221-0338, Email: fcrockhounds@yahoo.com, Dave Halliburton, Show Chairman, Fort Collins Rockhounds, PO Box 482, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522

March 23 – 25, 2007, Ada, OK

The Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club will host it’s annual swap, show and sale at the Pontotoc Co. Agri-Plex, Main building 1, at the N.E. corner of State Hwy 99 (U.S. 377) and the Richardson Bypass (SHwy 1 & 3E). Free Admission, Contact info: Ed Vermillion, 405-527-6431 or email okieed42@classicnet.net.

April 20 – 22, 2007, Wichita, KS

“*Meteorites & Dazzling Treasures*”, 54th annual show, Wichita Gem and Mineral Society, Dealers and Demonstrations. Contact info: Show Chairman Gene Maggard, 316-742-3746 gandpmaggard@wildblue.net or www.geocities.com/wgms2001 wgms2001@yahoo.com

May 4 – 6, 2007, McPherson, KS

Rock Hounds 15th Annual McPherson Gem & Mineral Club Rock Sale & Swap. Located at the 4H Fairgrounds, Woodside and Hickory. Contact: Marvin Lundquist, 620-241-7003 swederocker@mpks.net or Jim Nutter 620-241-2433.

May 18 – 19, 2007, Ellinwood, KS

Ellinwood 34th Annual Rock Swap, Buy-Sell-Trade. Auction Saturday May 19, 7:00 p.m. Hosted by the Ellinwood Chamber of Commerce, 620-564-3300.

June 16 – 17, Casper, WY

“*Rocks for All Ages*”, NCRC 60th Annual Rock Show along with WY State Gem & Mineral Show. Parkway Plaza Hotel, 123 W E St. Bonnie Franz, 307-265-3187 or Fiona Day, 307-797-1294.

REMEMBER - to insure that your RMFMS member club sponsored event is listed here, the responsible person should send a written notice to the RMFMS Editor: Sandy Riekeman, 220 W Harry St, Wichita KS 67213-5135 or e-mail at: wgms2001@yahoo.com. Include the following information: Show dates and times, Sponsor (Club), Show Location, Contact Name, phone number and e-mail, and Club Web Site. You may include other information about your show if you wish, but this information 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> e-mail your submissions to the webmaster.

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