



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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From Your President's Pen



Bill Smith

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|----|
| Treasurer's Report | 2 |
| Convention Report | 2 |
| To Be or Not To Be?? | 2 |
| Why Do We Collect? | 4 |
| Better Than Paper Towels | 5 |
| Collecting Fossils on Public | 6 |
| Armchair Travels in Rock-hounding Resources | 9 |
| Sworn to Fun | 10 |
| Mystery Mineral | 11 |
| Shows and More | 12 |
| Show Registration | 13 |
| Jr Cash Award Entry Form | 14 |
| Ofc's & Comm. Chairs | 15 |

From the Editor . . .

This edition may arrive a little later than usual, and I must accept responsibility for the delay.

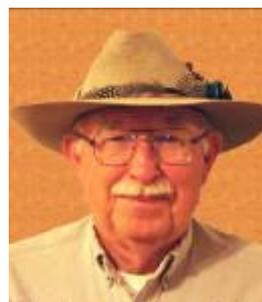
The good news is our RMFMS Bulletin Contest entries are now in the hands of capable judges, and the results will be in shortly. I will forward the top 3 winners in each category as our entries in the AFMS Bulletin Contest.

I want to thank each one of the editors in the Rocky Mountain region who submitted entries—you made our contest a success!

See you at the Editors Breakfast in Wichita.

It is hard to believe I am writing this article for the March newsletter. The winter is flying by. Next month is our RMFMS Show and Convention in Wichita. If you have not yet mailed your delegates form to our credentials chairperson, Janet Smith, now is the time to send it in. If your club is not sending delegates then I am asking you to send in a proxy form. If you are not sure your State Director is coming to the convention you may list Gene Maggard and DeLane Cox to vote for your club. Then send it to your State Director who will hand deliver or mail the forms.

If members of your club would like to receive a copy of the RMFMS newsletter and have an email address, you may send a list of those members with their email address to our editor, Betty Cain. We are working hard



to put out a very informative newsletter and want as many members as possible to be informed of what is happening in the Federation.

I hope every club has sent their annual report to our Treasurer. We also need the information for the Directory. Kay Waterman has been hard at work updating the Directory which is full of information about the Federation. The Events Calendar has a year's worth of show, auction, and swap data. It also talks about our organization, Federation services, and the functions of our committees. If you see a committee position I have not filled, you can review the responsibility of the

committee and give me a call. Our extensive Program Library has outstanding slide and DVD programs. The directory has a complete list with ordering instructions if your Program Chairman should need a program for a meeting. Are you planning a trip this summer to a new RMFMS area? The Directory lists all current clubs by state and city; telephone numbers are also listed. Just call, and I am sure a club member would be glad to take you to a collecting area or give you directions to one. This is just some of the important Federation information you will find in the Directory. Order yours today; see page 2 of this newsletter for ordering information.

I hope you are planning on attending the show in Wichita. I look forward to meeting and talking with you.

Until next month.

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Deadline

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENE MAGGARD

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

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

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

CONVENTION REPORT

GENE MAGGARD

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

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

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

TO BE OR NOT TO BE??

VIRGIL RICHARDS

A dying hobby or a burgeoning trend? It seems like more and more people in this hobby are reluctant to take responsibility for the health and well-being of the hobby itself. Every month another collecting site is lost to progress, legislation, or ignorance. More and more it seems that individual collectors are seeing dollar signs instead of the aesthetic beauty of a specimen. It bothers me when a newbie rockhound asks; "How much is this worth?" when holding a

new-found specimen.

Don't get me wrong folks; I'm not against selling specimens. For some collectors, it is the only way to sustain their hobby interest and to acquire new specimens for their collection. I'm not above selling a rock or two on occasion, depending on the rock, of course. I have pieces that can't be bought, and then there are those that I might very reluctantly part with for a price. Not because I want to make money from it, but because IF



I'm going to let it go, it's going to cost you. And then there are those that I freely share with others. It's my last line of defense to not have to part with one of my cherished finds. This thinking doesn't necessarily apply to specimens that I may have acquired by other means, such as a

purchased specimen; typically I may let it go for what I paid, as I'm not in this for profit.

That being said, I suppose it could be due to the fact that I get a certain sense of self-worth by adhering to my principles. I don't want to turn my hobby into a job if I can help it. That would lower the level of enjoyment I get from my pastime. I look around the house, and I see rocks that remind me of adventure, of camaraderie, of a particular event or even minor mishap that may have occurred on that collecting trip. They remind me that there is more to life than just work and obligations. It gives me something bigger to be a part of and contribute to.

The number of clubs has diminished over the past thirty-odd years to an all-time low in Oklahoma. We currently have only nine clubs incorporated in the state that are affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, clubs that dedicate their activities to the hobby of rockhounding, the focus of this article. There are, of course, other societies devoted to Archeology, Anthropology, Paleontology, Mineralogy, and niche interests within them, not associated with the our regional and national federations. With decline in the number of clubs, so has the membership of clubs still operating. As the membership matures and moves on in these clubs, the pool of knowledge dwindles, and the willingness of members to volunteer their time and experience seems to dwindle as well.

In recent months it seems at least a few of the clubs have been experiencing a boost in membership, some have even doubled their roster. The key to doing this is activity. Classes, field trips, shows, programs, and demonstrations have helped to gain the interest of potential members and especially youth. These folks have a broad range of interests, and they are hungry for knowledge. Lapidary arts are becoming a point of interest for more individuals, and we all know the cost of good equipment is outrageously high these days. A casual interest in lapidary can quickly become a passion, and an expensive one. In today's economy folks can't afford new equipment, and used equipment is getting harder to find at a reasonable price. A fully outfitted lapidary shop can cost anywhere between ten-thousand and thirty-thousand dollars or more to set up depending on an individuals interests. This can be a deterrent to a lot of potential members. One solution to this problem is a workshop where new members can try their hand at lapidary before selling their soul to the company store. Something every club

should consider.

Point: It takes a concerted and concentrated effort on the part of a few to afford opportunity to the many. Most clubs have a core group of people who will repeatedly volunteer their time and expertise, while the majority whistles and stares into space when volunteers are requested. Why most are reluctant to step up and contribute time and effort to keep their chosen hobby from slipping into oblivion is beyond me. Some have legitimate reasons, health, obligations, work, etc. while others are just along for the ride. The difference is *reasons* versus *excuses*. Anyone can have an excuse for not wanting to be involved at a higher level in an organization. I could find excuses, but I choose to volunteer my time and knowledge for the benefit of the hobby, my local society, as well as state, and regional organizations, and their individual members.

I hope that those reading this will take a moment and decide where they fit into this hobby. Everyone is good at something, and has something they can contribute. I encourage you all, in fact, I *CHALLENGE* you to find an activity or position in which you can volunteer some time and give the core group a break.

Respectfully,

Virgil G. Richards,

Oklahoma State Director – RMFMS;
Webmaster – Oklahoma State Council of Mineralogical Societies; VP/Field Trip Coordinator – Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society



St. Patrick's Day, March 17th

WHY DO WE COLLECT?

BY MIKE NELSON, PUBLIC LAND ADVISORY COMM.

I often get asked, by adults and children, a question that goes something like this: “why do you like to collect minerals and fossils. As a child were you interested in collecting?”

Boy, that is a thought-provoking question! I guess the simple answer is yes, well sort of, maybe. As a boy roaming central Kansas I certainly collected lots of rocks and minerals but really didn't know anything about a career in geology. In fact, I am not certain that I even knew the meaning of the term “geology”. I did know I wanted to work where a person could interact with nature (many people of my age may remember the advertisements in the back of outdoor magazines promoting correspondence courses and promising a career as a “forest ranger”). In college, I dabbled with engineering (not fast enough with a slide rule) and chemistry (broke too much glass ware). Then one day, in a serendipitous moment, I rediscovered geology and the rest, as they say, is history. I never really looked back.

One of the great things about collecting and working with rocks, minerals, and fossils is that I get out in the open spaces of nature. For me, most anytime that I get out in the country, a “runners high” is achieved. Physicians tell me this endorphin rush is related to strenuous exercise, pain, excitement, danger, or stress. In my case, I am convinced that the “rush” is simply related to the excitement of seeing birds and flowers and trees and rocks and whatever else is out there. All of these external stimuli seem to trigger my pituitary and hypothalamus glands to produce these endorphins, a compound that sort of acts like an opiate to produce a feeling of well-being.

Erich Fromm (1964) used the term *biophilia* to describe our attraction to all that is alive and vital (animals and plants). Edward O. Wilson (1984), in his book entitled *Biophilia*, stated that *biophilia* describes the connections that humans seek with other life forms, something that is inherent in our internal biology. In other words, our “humanness” connects us with other living creatures, and we have this affinity with nature ingrained in our genes. *Philiias* (the love of nature) are the opposite of *phobias* (our fears of nature). We often use *biophobias*, think *arachnophobia* (fear of spiders), *ophidiophobia* (fear of snakes), or even *xenophobia* (fear of “foreigners”) to try and scare people, or even eliminate animals and people. However, *biophilias* are used to calm and

comfort people, think the use of green plants in homes and business or even the use of animals, especially infants, in all sorts of advertisements. Research findings, especially by Robert Ulrich from Texas A & M University, seem to show that “nature” has a positive and calming effect on hospital patients. I argue that experiencing, or even seeing “nature”, also has the same calming effect on most everyone. *Biophilias*, I believe, can produce the release of endorphins and cause a feeling of well-being.

Wilson stated in his book that *most children have a bug period, and I never grew out of mine*. This got me to thinking about my childhood and my love of rocks, fossils, and minerals and made me think that *I had a rock period and never grew out of it*. For me, the endorphins seem to release as I climb among the ledges or simply reach down and pick up that shiny specimen of chalcedony. I suspect that similar feelings are achieved by faceters and jewelry makers as they inspect their final projects.

So, these thoughts made me ask “is there a *geophilia* hypothesis”? The literature about such is quite scarce, but Paul Faulstich in 2004 used the term to define *a biologically based tendency to emotionally associate with the landscape* and further believes this evolutionary heritage forms the basis for our conservation ethic. I believe *geophilia* is much broader than Faulstich's thought and should include our **emotional association with all things geological**, not just the landscape. This would put the term in a context similar to *biophilia*. Every morning I “need” to see Pikes Peak to get that calming effect and release of body opiates to notify my brain that “all is good” in the world. I may be ill or in a cranky mood, but the vision of Pikes Peak reminds me that the natural world is still in order, and that is a calming effect.

In the opposite spectrum, perhaps a *geophobia* would include a fear of a beautifully treed landscape with a trout stream running down the middle of the property. Someone with that fear would likely envision the bustle of a housing sub development! I don't know! I have not run across any specifically listed *geophobias*, except perhaps *spelunkaphobia* (fear of caves) and *acrophobia* (fear of heights).

So, what does all this mean for RMFMS readers? Perhaps nothing except that the cold outside on this early January day allowed me to do some thinking about the big picture of life. But then again, perhaps it means that members have some sort of an

evolutionary propensity, something built into our genes, that allows us to communicate with, and hear the call of, rocks, minerals, and fossils. I learned long ago that the rocks could really talk; one just had to listen and to understand!

Perhaps we need this relationship and affiliation with living organisms (*biophilia*) and the land (*geophilia*) to not only enhance our commitment of living sustainably with the earth, but also to live in a life full of moments of well-being. I do believe that

my love of nature is hardwired from my genes to my brain. I collect rocks, minerals, and fossils because it makes me "feel good", something primitive in my genes tells my brain, "hey, pick up that rock, and remember that life is good, enjoy it to the fullest."

Mike Nelson is a member of the CMS and the LGGMC and may be reached at csrockguy@yahoo.com. As always, this article represents the views of the author and not necessarily the views of CSMS, LGGMC or the RMFMS.

"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." John Muir.

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Faulstich, Paul, 2004, Natural Considerations: The Human Ecology of Place-making: <<http://hdl.handle.net/1885/42130>>.

Fromm, Erich, 1964, *The Heart of Man*. New York: Harper and Row.
Wilson, Edward O. 1984. *Biophilia*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.



There is still time to ensure your listing is correct in the 2010 RMFMS Directory. Send info to:
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BETTER THAN PAPER TOWELS & A LOT LESS EXPENSIVE

FROM THE VOICE, FEB 2010, WITH ADDITIONAL HINTS FROM THE EDITOR

Coffee filters... Who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree for almost nothing, even the large ones.



1. Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.
2. Clean windows, mirrors, (eye glasses), and chrome. Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave glass sparkling.
4. Protect china by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.
5. Protect small specimens when collecting in

the field.

6. Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.
7. Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.
8. Apply shoe polish with a ball of lint-free coffee filter.
9. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
10. Weigh chopped food. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.

11. Hold tacos, hot dogs, or pitas. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.

12. Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.

13. Prevent a popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter for the sticks.

14. Do you think we use expensive strips to wax eyebrows? Use strips of coffee filters.

15. Put a few in a plate and put your fried ba-

con, French fries, chicken fingers, etc. on them. It soaks out all the grease.

16. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."

17. As a sewing backing. Use a filter as an easy-to-tear backing for embroidering or appliquéing soft fabric.

18. Put baking soda into a coffee filter and place in the fridge, gym bag or locker, shoes, or a closet to absorb or prevent odors.

19. Use them to strain soup stock and to tie fresh herbs added to soups and stews.

20. Use a cone coffee

filter to prevent spilling when adding fluids to your car.

21. Use them as a spoon rest while cooking and clean up small counter spills.

22. Use to hold dry ingredients when baking or when cutting a piece of fruit or veggies.

23. Use them to wrap Holiday ornaments for storage.

24. Store nails, screws, and other small hardware in coffee filters to keep them separated or getting lost.

25. Use them to remove fingernail polish when out of cotton balls.

26. Use them to sprout seeds.

Simple dampen the coffee filter, place seeds inside, fold it, and place it into a plastic baggie until they sprout.

27. Use coffee filters as blotting paper for pressed flowers. Place the flowers between two coffee filters and put the filter in a phone book.

28. Use as a disposable “snack bowl” for popcorn, chips, etc.

29. Diffuse the flash when taking close-ups by placing a coffee filter over it.

30. Strain plain yogurt into a filter secured by a rubber band on a large cup; let stand for 1 hr, and voilà—Greek-style yogurt!

Mix in herbs and serve with crackers.

31. Craft items such as flowers or kid’s hats for a party. Decorate or use markers to color.

32. Add potpourri to a filter, tie it up, and place it in a drawer.

33. Dryer sheets—place a couple drops of fabric softener on filter, rub sides together, and toss into the dryer to prevent static cling.

34. Use as a face wipe when hauling all those specimens the last quarter mile back to the truck!

35. My favorite—make coffee!!

COLLECTING FOSSILS ON PUBLIC LANDS

MIKE NELSON, CSMS

The Paleontological Resources Protection Act (PRPA) was passed by the U. S. Congress in 2009 and signed into law by President Obama on 30 March as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. The PRPA is an emotional issue for many people and has caused a great deal of concern among both the rock and mineral clubs and individuals. There is a tremendous amount of misunderstanding about this law and the Web is full of inflammatory statements about what this bill “does” and “does not” do. I hope to present, in this article, information about rock, mineral, and fossil collecting on public lands as now stated in the PRPA.

There are a variety of federal agencies in the U.S. that manage lands containing natural and physical resources such as rocks, minerals, and fossils. The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation’s largest land manager and our principle conservation agency with a mission to protect “America’s treasures for future generations.” The DOI manages over 500 million acres (ma), about one-fifth of the surface land in the U.S., within the following agencies: 1) Bureau of Land management (BLM) with 256 ma; 2) National Park Service (NPS) with 84.6 ma; 3) Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) with 8.7 ma; 4) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 66 ma; and 5) Fish and Wildlife Service

(FWS) with 96.2 ma. In addition, the major federal research organization concerning geology, water, and biology is housed within the DOI—the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The second major federal land manager is the Department of Agriculture (USDA) that contains the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with a mission “to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people” and managing 193 ma of forests and grasslands.



Most of the federal land management agencies derive their authority to manage rocks, fossils, and minerals from the specific act that created the particular agency (such as the Organic Act of 1916 creating the NPS), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and various sections of regulations found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

FLPMA is perhaps the most comprehensive of the laws and states that the public lands shall be managed in a manner that protects the quality of scientific and other values; requires that they be inventoried on a continuing basis; and that the use, occupancy and development of these lands

be regulated through easements, permits, leases, licenses, published rules, or other instruments. Unfortunately, the rules and regulations concerning the collecting of rocks, minerals, and fossils on federal land vary from agency to agency and often vary within a particular agency. It remains difficult to locate specific collecting rules on web sites and often an inquirer gets conflicting answers from personal questions posed in district offices. The passage of the PRPA will alleviate some of these ambiguities.

The NPS, with a mission of *the preservation, protection, and stewardship of natural and historic resources in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations*, seems to have the most straightforward rules on collecting—essentially you cannot collect anything: *collecting, rock-hounding, and gold panning of rocks, minerals, and paleontological specimens, for either recreational or educational purposes is generally prohibited in all units of the National Park System* (36 C.F.R. § 2.1[a] and § 2.5[a]). However, some units allow scientific research with a valid collecting permit and some Alaskan parks allow limited rock and mineral collecting.



Department of the Interior
Recovery Investments



The BOR has a mission to *manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public*. Most land managed by the BOR is found around “water facilities” as the Bureau operates 348 reservoirs and 58 hydroelectric plants in 17 western states. Paleontological resources on BOR lands are protected and anyone wishing to collect fossils must first obtain a permit. Permits are only issued for scientific research (Secretarial Order 3104 delegates authority to BOR to issue paleontological resource use permits for lands under its jurisdiction). As best that I can interpret, causal and recreational collecting of minerals and rocks is/was not allowed on BOR land; however, all this may/should change with passage of the PRPA.

The FWS has a mission of *working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people*. The major responsibility of the FWS is the management of 550

national wildlife refuges and other units of the Refuge System, plus 37 wetland management districts. However, the FWS is heavily involved with endangered and threatened species. Rules for collecting appear to be similar to the BOR—causal collecting is generally not allowed and a permit is needed for scientific collecting. Most individual refuges now state a rule similar to Havasu National Wildlife Refuge: *All plants, animals, rocks, fossils, items of antiquity, archaeological resources, and minerals are protected. Possession of these objects or parts and pieces of these objects is prohibited*. Again, passage of the PRPA may/should change or modify regulations.

The BIA’s mission is to *... enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives*. The authority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to manage fossil and mineral resources on Indian lands is limited and not mandated by statute. Indian lands are not public lands. Each parcel of Indian land is managed by the individually recognized tribe. Generally, collecting of any resource is prohibited and the PRPA specifically does not apply to BIA land.

The USFS has perhaps the most confusing regulations and rules of any federal land management agency. However, in their defense, it appears the Forest Service did not have the authority for the disposal of minerals, rocks, and fossils from USFS lands other than under the Mining Laws and 228 mining regulations. However, the PRPA changes all this ambiguity and specifically gives the Service needed authority to manage fossil resources.

The PRPA is an attempt to codify the numerous regulations and rules governing the collection of fossils on most federal lands, especially lands managed by the BLM and USFS. The PRPA continues the existing practice of requiring that vertebrate fossils and other rare and scientifically significant fossils be collected only by qualified researchers who obtain a permit. Collectors must then agree to deposit the fossils in public institutions which will ensure their future availability to researchers and the public. However, PRPA strengthens the causal/recreational collecting experience:

Sec. 6301 (1) CASUAL COLLECTING.—*The term “casual collecting” means the collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and*

plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth's surface and other resources. As used in this paragraph, the terms "reasonable amount", "common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources" and "negligible disturbance" shall be determined by the Secretary.



Sec.6304. (2) CASUAL COLLECTING EXCEPTION.—*The Secretary shall allow casual collecting without a permit on Federal land controlled or administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Forest Service, where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those Federal land and this subtitle.*

In my opinion, although PRPA strengthens the status of amateur collectors, it does not give collectors the right to deface federal property by large scale excavation, nor sell fossils, nor collect vertebrate fossils without a permit.

So how will all of this shake out? Currently the federal agencies are trying to comply with SEC. 6310 that states (for the DOI) that the *Secretary of the Interior must issue such regulations as appropriate to implement the PRP subtitle and provide opportunities for public notice and comment. Provisions of the statute that need specific regulatory language include defining terms used in the definition of casual collecting.*

I have already seen an improvement in collecting regulations as the BLM now states: *Visitors to public lands are welcome to collect reasonable amounts of common invertebrate and plant fossils without a BLM permit. No permit is needed for plant fossils, such as leaves, stems, and cones, or common invertebrate fossils, such as ammonites and trilobites. These materials must be for your personal collection and cannot be sold or traded. Commercial collection of any type of fossil from Federal lands is not allowed, except for petrified wood.* But, rockhounds should also note that some BLM areas, such as the Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area near Grand Junction, CO, are off-limits to collecting.

I have been unable to locate system-wide in-

formation for the USFS concerning fossil collecting. In fact, the major USFS web sites seem to ignore the passage of the PRPA (no current information available), and "fossil collecting" seems to have disappeared from sight, or at least many web sites. It is present in some areas, but often is incorrect! The Manti-LaSal Forest in Utah notes *rock, mineral, and fossil collecting on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service requires a permit, which is free to the public. The permit allows one to collect small amounts of material for personal use.* The PRPA specifies that permits are NOT required. I can only assume the Service is working to implement the directives of the PRPA in all districts! And, I would like to point out that the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (perhaps there are others) has it correct: Limited collection of rocks and minerals, petrified wood and common invertebrate or plant fossils for personal use is allowed on most National Forest System lands. These materials may be collected without a permit provided the collecting is for personal, hobby, and noncommercial use.

As a final note, petrified wood on BLM land is governed by its own law: 43 CFR 3610, 3621 and 3622. Individuals may remove 25 pounds in weight plus one piece per day, with a maximum amount of 250 pounds removed in one calendar year. The regulations of the USFS differ somewhat from the BLM. The federal code, 36 CFR 228.62 (e), states:

A free-use permit may be issued to amateur collectors and scientists to take limited quantities of petrified wood for personal use. The material taken may not be bartered or sold. Free-use areas may be designated within which a permit may not be required. I have been unable to locate a definition of "limited quantities"; however, this definition may be left to the individual land managers since the CFR continues: the rules may vary by area depending on the quantity, quality, and accessibility of the material and the demand for it.



All of the federal agencies managing lands seem to have at least five important rules in common: 1) the collection of vertebrate fossils is either prohibited or requires a permit; 2) the commercial collection (for sale or barter) of any specimen (rocks, minerals, semiprecious gems, common invertebrate fossils and plants) requires a permit; 3) land managers may establish special management areas where all collecting is prohibited (such as McInnis Canyons National Conserva-

tion Area); 4) the collection of specimens is prohibited in developed recreation areas; and 5) if the collection of petrified wood is allowed, then it is governed by a special set of rules. Now, the agencies have new rules codified in the PRPA that will generally allow causal collecting of common (non-vertebrate) fossils.

Mike Nelson is a member of the CSMS and LGGMC in Colorado and is a new member of the RMFMS Colorado Public Land Advisory Committee and the BLM Front Range Resource Advisory Committee. However, this article reflects only his personal views and opinions. He may be reached at csrockguy@yahoo.com. In addition, collectors should check with their local federal land management offices before venturing out. The BLM collecting regulations may be located at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/CRM/paleontology_laws.html, and the PRPA may be downloaded as a PDF file from [P.L. 111-011 \(PRPA\)](#). Parts of this article were extracted from a previous article in the CSMS *Pick&Pack*, Vol 49 No 4, April 2009.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELS IN ROCK-HOUNDING RESOURCES

BY CHRISTINA MORRISSEY, MINERAL MINUTES, 11/12 09

The weather outside may be turning, but that needn't stop you from "digging." Digging for information that is! If you are computerized, here are a few resources you might look into that are guaranteed to take up some of the slack in your "spare time."

Free Cataloging and Labeling Database

I attended the yearly mineral symposium of the *Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy* (<http://www.pnwfm.org/>) in Kelso, WA on Oct 17-18, 2009. Aside from being a wonderful opportunity to meet people that you don't always meet at rock clubs, and to pick up many local specimens at decent prices, the educational presentations are tops. One in particular caught my attention.

Steven Ouder Kirk of West Richland, WA works as a staff scientist for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the cyber security group. He has created and setup a free website and free downloadable program (SASK lithic MCC) devoted to the cataloging and labeling of rock and mineral collections that will operate on Microsoft Win-

dows™, Vista™, and Linux programs. Steve has collected minerals for over 40 years (preferring sulfide and Northwest thumbnails). He has an MS in mining engineering from Montana Tech and has worked as a mining engineer for Anaconda, Asarco, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

The program is currently functional and in addition to cataloging tons of information about each specimen, can be used to store digital photos of the specimens and the collecting sites, GPS coordinates, purchase values, and insurance values. The program can then be used to sort the data in a variety of ways as well as to generate various reports, as well as labels. The web site is still under construction.

I personally don't feel I have that big of a collection and was initially resistant to the idea of organizing it so formally. However, as I listened to Steve's presentation on the logic of the program and the ease with which it could be used, not to mention the use of the labeling and report sections, I began thinking that maybe early is better, before things get out of control! This program can also remind you where you put various specimens in your house or garage which even with a small collection can come in handy given "senioritis."

Steve says everything is open to change and comment and welcomes your input. Please check this program out at <http://www.sasklithic.com>.

SASK lithic MCC is a free cross-platform mineral cataloging database application that provides a simple to use interface to record common mineral specimen information. This application will operate on MS Windows™ (Vista, 64 bit & 32 bit, XP 32 bit) and Linux (Ubuntu 8.04 & 8.10, 64 bit & 32 bit). Other versions of Linux and Windows may work, but have not been tested.



Features: Collection table with 27 fields and unlimited specimen photographs to record specimen related data. Mineral table with 10 fields to provide mineral property related data (populated with 4,300+ minerals). Locality table with 8 fields and unlimited photographs to record mineral locality (place) related data. National sub-table with

7 fields to provide nation related data (currently populated with 200+ nations). States sub-table with 6 fields to provide state related data. Contacts table with 10 fields and unlimited contacts photographs to record dealer and collector contact information.

SWORN TO FUN—A REASON FOR THE DECLINE OF ROCKHOUDING

BY ED TINDELL, 2009 CLEAR LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT, VIA THE SHAWNEE SLATE, JAN 2010

I haven't had time to write one of these columns for the last few months. I've been too busy. Rockhounding is not all I do. Have you heard that one before? I suppose it's my excuse as well as anybody else's for not being more active at times. I wonder. Let me explain.

I really enjoy job assignments at work that let me be a consultant. You get to ask a lot of seemingly stupid questions. Here's one: *how many rock clubs do you belong to?* You belong to our own club or you obviously wouldn't be reading this. What other rock clubs do you belong to? There are a lot of clubs out there that one can join. Okay, so you had to look through your checkbook to find out to which clubs you have paid dues in the last twelve months, because you are only counting your active memberships.

Here's another one: *in how many of the clubs that you belong are you active?* I hate to be the one to tell you this, but active doesn't mean your dues are paid up. If your dues are paid that makes you a member in good standing but does not imply that you are an active member. I know some of you are starting to wince, but keep reading - honestly answering stupid questions can be good for the soul. That's why I like consulting jobs.

One more: *what does it mean when you say you are active in a club?* Do you hold an elected

office? Are you currently staffing a volunteer position? There are a lot more of those in most clubs than elected officers. Do you regularly attend the meetings of that club? Do you write articles for their newsletter? Do you give short talks or demonstrations at club meetings? How about full presentations as the main speaker? When was the last time you donated a door prize? Or attended a field trip? Or led one? Do you help out with at the show? Do you volunteer to put rocks from your collection on display at libraries and schools when that club is asked to do so? On a scale of one to ten, how did you do? Be honest.

By now you should know how many clubs you belong to and how active or inactive you are in each of them. Now, the next time any club asks you to help out and you tell them that you are too busy, stop and ask yourself, "why am I too busy?" A few of you, life situation notwithstanding, do everything you can for all of the clubs you belong to. I tip my hat to you! Married people are most often too busy with other non-rockhound things. Spouse, kids, house, cars, work, etc. Single people tend to fill in all their available free time with activities of one sort or another and can stay pretty busy too. Looking for a mate, road trips, searching for a job, attending college, etc.; all legitimate reasons.



So, here's my point: *how many of you are too busy to help out in a club because you are already busy helping out in all the other clubs you belong to?* I submit to you that as human beings we are opportunists. You've heard the old saying, "Sworn to fun, loyal to none?" Was a field trip or class the only activity you participated in with a club recently? When you participate only when it benefits you but can't recall giving anything back, what does that say about your membership? It's called being a member in name only.

Being a member in name only is perhaps a hidden reason that our hobby is slowly dying. The old guard is retiring and often not enough new people are joining to maintain stable, yet alone growing, memberships in many clubs across the country. When that happens, the old 80/20 rule, "80% of the work is done by 20% of the people," changes

to 85/15, then to 90/10, etc. When it gets to 100/0, the club dies.

I believe there is a way to turn this situation around. We need to change our nature as human beings from opportunists to loyalist. Of all the clubs you belong to, to which are you most loyal? If you had to drop your membership in all but one, which would you keep? What if the mineral federations adopted a one-club only membership rule? Some clubs might disappear! The memberships of many clubs, especially those in areas with more than one local club, would certainly go down; a more true picture of membership would emerge,

because members in one club would not be counted as members in many other clubs as well. Would more members not be too busy to help out when asked? I believe a lot of them would not be so busy helping out the other clubs they no longer belonged to, and if they are loyal to the only club they stayed a member in, I believe they would (...not be too busy to volunteer). We can be our own worst enemy or our own best friend. It's up to us.



MYSTERY MINERAL

Editor's Note: When I read this article in the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club newsletter, I thought what a great idea to get readers involved. I hope you enjoy it! I'm sure Paul would like to receive your answer for the mystery mineral.

From the devious mind of Paul Hlava

A few folks emailed me that they read the Mystery Mineral and try to decipher the mineral names. Email me at hpf5@qwest.net, and let me know your guesses by copying the Questions below and answering them. This includes AGMC members and everyone else who reads "News Nuggets". EMAIL paulhlava@q.com! I have been gratified by folks responding that they have to WORK at these minerals. Good, that IS the idea. This way you learn about them.

The Game Plan – I will describe a mineral, and you have to guess/decipher/research the name of the mineral and the questions asked about uses, history, notable facts, etc. I expect the Top Guns in the club to be able to guess the name off the top of their heads. The learners will need a reference book or two. You will benefit most if you do not ask others for the answers but work it out for yourselves. When you have decided on the name you can compare notes with others or wait for the answers to be announced at the meetings or published in the News Nuggets. Good luck and have fun.

Last year I discussed minerals with metallic and sub-metallic lusters. This year I'll work on minerals found in the Hansonburg District of NM. I'll start off easy.

This month's MM is an uncommon, secondary mineral that is a simple, hydrated sulfate. It is usually found in arid climates or in rapidly oxidizing ore deposits. It usually occurs as fine, radiating, monoclinic prisms to acicular needles or as druses. It has one perfect cleavage. It is transparent to highly translucent. It is emerald green, green, or black with a light green streak. Sp. Gr. = 3.97, H = 3.5 to 4.

PAUL HLAVA, NEWS NUGGETS, JAN '10

Questions

What is the name of the mineral?

What is the origin of the name?

What metals does it contain?

What non-metals does it contain?

What other secondary minerals might occur with it?

What other minerals might it easily be confused with?

What is it mined and used for?

Do you have some in your collection?

List some famous localities

In NM –

In the USA –

In the World –

Answer published in next month's newsletter.



Palm Sunday,
March 28

First day of Pass-
over, March 30



To have your RMFMS member club sponsored event listed here, email bettycain3@comcast.net. Include the following information:

- Show dates & times
- Show location
- Phone number
- Club web site
- Sponsor (club)
- Contact name
- Email

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

March 11-14, 2010 Deming, NM

45th annual show, "Rockhound Roundup Gem & Mineral Show"; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; SWNM Fairgrounds, Raymond Reed Blvd.; contact Jerry & Carolyn Abbey, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88030, (575) 543-8916; e-mail: theDGMS@gmail.com; Web site: dgms.bravehost.com

March 26-28, 2010 Ada, OK

A Festival of Gems, Minerals & Fossils 2010, Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club, Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5, Pontotoc Co. Agri-Plex, Ada. Contact Ed Vermillion, PO Box 782, Purcell, OK 73080 405-527-6431 okieed42@windstream.net.

March 26-28, 2010 Fort Collins, CO

49th annual show; Fort Collins Rockhounds; Lincoln Center, 419 W. Magnolia St; contact Dave Halliburton, (970) 493-6168; e-mail: fcrockhounds@yahoo.com; Web site: fortcollinsrockhounds.org.

April 9-11, 2010 Albuquerque, NM

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

April 10-11, 2010 Kingman, AZ

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

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

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



**SHOWS
AND
MORE**

May 7-9, 2010 McPherson, KS

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

May 14-16, 2010 Enid, OK

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

June 12-13, 2010 Colorado Springs, CO

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

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

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

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, marylousreallynycethings@yahoo.com, 580-237-1177.

October 8-10, 2010 Sierra Vista, AZ

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

December 3-5, 2010 El Paso, TX

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

EDITOR'S WORKSHOP

September 17, 2010 Denver, CO

sponsored by the Reformed Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies; contact Beth Simmons, clovernoll@comcast.net

RMFMS Convention & Show

Hosted by Wichita Gem and Mineral Society
 Cessna Activity Center, Wichita, Kansas
 April 23, 24, 25, 2010

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

(Please print or type)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Check all that apply

Federation: AFMS___ RMFMS___ SCFMS___ CFM--S___ MWF___ EFMLS___ NFMS___ SFMS___

Office: Officer___ Chairman___ Delegate___ Alternate___

 Editor___ Exhibitor___ Judge___ Clerk___

 Other_____

Admission Fees: (children under 12 admitted free)

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|
| One day pass | \$4.00 tax included | # _____ | total \$ _____ |
| Three day pass | \$8.00 tax included | # _____ | total \$ _____ |

Breakfast with the Editors:

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Buffet | \$15.00 tax & gratuity included | # _____ | total \$ _____ |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------|----------------|

Federation Banquet Buffet: Two entrees @ \$22.50 ea. Tax & gratuity included

| | | |
|---|---------|----------------|
| Slow baked roast beef with merlot sauce and horseradish | # _____ | total \$ _____ |
| Garlic herb pasta with grilled vegetables and chicken | # _____ | total \$ _____ |

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Deadline for advanced registration is March 15, 2010

See your club treasurer or the RMFMS web site for Hotel information & Exhibit forms

Make all checks payable to **WGMS**

Return to: **Gene Maggard, 8318 SE Hwy 77, Leon, KS 67074**

Please make copies as necessary

Junior Cash Award Entry Form

RMFMS 2010 Convention April 23, 24, 25, 2010

This completed entry form MUST be signed, dated and received by **March 15, 2010**

Please complete all information on this sheet pertaining to your exhibit

Mail to: Gene Maggard, 8318 SE HWY 77, Leon, Ks 67074

Name: _____ Age: _____

Name of Club/Society: _____

Exhibit Space Required: _____

Example: If the specimen is mounted on a piece of plastic that is 4 x 5 inches and the label is 2 X 4 inches, the footprint of the exhibit will be 6 x 5 inches. The Junior Chairman will know that this exhibit plus margins will require somewhere around 10 x 9 inches and will arrange the exhibits in cases for the best fit.

Certification: I certify that I collected and performed all work on this specimen and that I am a member of a RMFMS club.

Signature _____

Date _____

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March 2010***



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