



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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May 2008

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

From the Editor

by Sandy Riekeman

I want to thank you of you for allowing me to be your newsletter editor. I have had a wonderful time, and will miss working with all of you. I would like to introduce your new newsletter editor. She is Deanna Smith from the Mineralogical Society of Arizona. Please be sure to have your August articles to her by July 1, her email address is: deanna.smith@safeway.com

Hourglass Selenite Crystals

by Stan Nowak

On March 6 a meeting was held in Cherokee, OK concerning the Hourglass Selenite Crystal Digging Area. It concerned the status of the opening of the digging area after vials of diluted chemical agents were found by a Boy Scout while digging in the area in April 2007. An additional 162 vials were found by the U. S. Army 22nd Chemical Battalion from Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland who were called in after the digging area had been closed.

I had been in the digging area the first weekend of April 2007 helping people dig the crystals properly and was deeply saddened when I heard the area was closed. We had found a huge area of beautiful very large clusters as well as large clear blades.

A brief history of the area was presented by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Great Salt Plains was used as a training area for the U. S. Army and the U. S. Army Air Corps. The vials were used for training in the identification of various chemicals that the soldiers may encounter in battlefield conditions and what actions they should take.

The vials were about 1 1/2" in diameter and 8" long, encased in a cardboard cylinder with metal end caps. Twelve of these cylinders were then placed inside a metal container about the size of a coffee can. Incendiary devices were then detonated to burn through the metal and cardboard which would then break the vials and release the chemicals. Unlike today's requirements, no records were kept as to the number or locations of the containers.

A large metal detector on wheels was used over the 300 acre site to help locate any other possible containers. 322 anomalies and another 22 possible disposal pits were detected. The anomalies could be coins, bottle caps, or any other minor metal items.

Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group Inc. was contracted by the Corps of Engineers to examine and help clean up the area. They started to

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Thank you,

***Stan Nowak
Linda Jaeger
Gene Maggard
Ernie Leschner
Nancy Hicks
and everyone else***

*for your contributions
to the May issue of the
Rocky Mountain
Federation News.*

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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 August is July 1.

President's Message

By Stan Nowak

I want to thank **Sandy Riekeman** for her outstanding service to the Federation as Editor. She has put together newsletters that everyone should be proud of especially due to lack of input from people (I have to admit to that at times). We will miss her.

I would like to announce the name of the new Editor as **Deanna Smith** from the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ.

Since we will be having a break for the next two months without a newsletter, clubs be sure to stay in contact with your state director and vice versa. Start getting your inputs, questions, and information ready for the convention in November in Tulsa. Also don't forget your show cases as well. We are still looking for sponsorship of any and all future Federation Shows and Conventions.

Remember to keep the scholarship donations coming in no matter what size as long as we can get full participation.

Reminder

Please notify the newsletter editor at deanna.smith@safeway.com when your club officers change. Your officers are entitled to receive the RMFMS News free, but we must have their e-mail address, or snail mail address so that we can send the free issue!!!

Crystals continued from page 1

dig in the identified areas on March 15th with a completion in approximately five weeks. Contrary to what many may believe, not the whole digging area has been dug up, only where the metal detector has had hits. Parsons will give the Corps of Engineers a report of what was found and if it appears there may or may not be any other hazards in the area. The Corps of Engineers will then give a report to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife who have the final say as to if and when the digging area should be opened.

The object of everyone is for reopening the area. However, they all agree that they want to make sure the area is safe for everyone to go into.

Since the area has been closed, it has had a major economic impact of the small communities in the area. Since the closing has had such an impact and also has closed a major recreation area for the state of Oklahoma, high priority has been put on this project by the U. S. Army and Congress. Reports that normally take two months to process are being done in about two weeks and funding is as well expedited. By the original time frame a public report is due in January 2009; however, if everything goes extremely well that time frame will be expedited.

The bottom line though is that the Great Salt Plains Hourglass Selenite Digging Area will not open in 2008. We are hoping for spring of 2010, but ultimately we can't to be guaranteed that the area is safe for all.

A major concern of many of the local businesses was how will the word get out when it reopens, as I told them that as soon as I get more information I will pass it on throughout the RMFMS and AFMS.



QUICK TIPS for EDITORS

By Linda Jaeger, RMFMS/AFMS 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.

TAKE 5 — JUST FOR YOU!

"I try to take one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once"¹ could easily be an editor's mantra, especially when you're almost at your deadline and still typing like mad.

That's when you begin to feel stress and tension, especially in your head, neck, shoulders, and back.

There are some simple things you can do to release the tension, without even getting out of your chair²:

1- sit back in the chair, feet on the floor, hands in your lap, and breathe in deeply, slowly; let your belly expand and your shoulders rise — then exhale all the air out; you can close your eyes if you'd like, taking several deep breaths (concentrate on breathing — I promise you won't go to sleep!)

2- to relax your neck and shoulders, inhale slowly and deeply as you lengthen your spine, sitting up tall, then slowly exhale as you look to your right; inhale and look forward; exhale and look left; do several times

3- to relax your back, scoot that chair away from the keyboard, plant your feet firmly on the ground, chair width apart; inhale for a long spine, then exhale as you bend at the hips (not your waist!) and walk your hands down the fronts of your legs; you can let your head drop between your arms, nodding "yes" then shaking it "no"; if this makes you dizzy, just keep your head higher than your heart; after several breaths walk your hands back up your legs; if you have low back issues you can do this by supporting yourself with your hands on your thighs as you hinge forward at the hip

4- to re-energize and get ready to type again, move to the front edge of your chair, feet firmly planted, about 10 inches apart; reach both hands behind you to the seat or outside edges of your chair; each time you inhale let your chest rise and pull the shoulder

blades together — you'll feel your spine get longer; exhale and relax your shoulders down; repeat several times

Feeling better? Got 2 more minutes? Go ahead and get up, walk to the kitchen and get a drink of water. Then you can sit back down and keep those attacking days at bay!

¹Seabrook, Jane, ed. *Furry Logic — A Guide to Life's Little Challenges*. Berkley/Toronto: Ten Speed Press, 2004.

²Suggestions based on *Tools for Teachers Training Handbook* by Leah Kalish and Tara Lynda Guber.

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

Treasurers Corner

by Gene Maggard

This is the last newsletter until Fall, so I am reviewing a few things to keep in mind when the summer is winding down and it is also approaching the end of the fiscal year (October 31) for RMFMS.

Annual Reports, Dues and Club General Liability Insurance: The report form will go out by email where email addresses are available, and by USPS where not, to all club treasurers. The report is due back on Dec. 15. It makes life much simpler for me, and hopefully for you, when the reports are completed and filed electronically. Just follow the instructions.

Treasurer Office Changes: If your club's treasurer changed since your 07-08 report was filed, please mail or email me the new treasurer's name and contact information so that I contact the correct person this fall.

IRS Reporting for Small Non Profits: Is your club a small non-profit? If so, did you know that you are required to file an IRS report after your fiscal year ends? It is called the "E-Postcard" report. The IRS requires that it be filed electronically. If you have further questions about this new reporting requirement, contact me or your tax accountant.

If any of you treasurers, or other club members, have questions about the RMFMS treasurer job or how it relates to your treasurer job and/or to your club, contact me. I will try to help.

People Plus Government— Can It Really Work ???

By Ernie Leschner

Many of you know that the RMFMS is a member of the Blue Ribbon Coalition. Thru this membership we support the efforts to keep public areas open to the public. I started out to let everyone know what was happening with the Blue Ribbon Coalition. They are following different Forest Service proposals and various other activities in California. I found the following which I thought to be more useful information for us all. Reading about a rock collecting site that is in jeopardy or a road closure to get to a site doesn't really mean much until it hit home and is in your backyard. We have seen time and time again that it is a fight one person cannot do it alone. It pays to get help from whatever sources are available when trying to fight this uphill battle. Harry Klibb has kept us informed of what is going on in the Lake Havasu, AZ area. Some of their success is in part by teaming up with other recreational user groups. Here is another example of teaming up with someone to help save public areas/roads from closure.

The following has been taken from an article in the February 20, 2008 edition of The Pioneer newspaper of Snowflake, Az. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Service Travel Management Plan proposes to close a large number of roads limiting the public access to the forest. The Citizens for Multiple Land Use and Access was the leader in rallying citizen support. The article goes on to say the that the Navajo County Board of Supervisors has passed resolution 89-07 on December 3, 2007 which is "vehement opposition to the proposed Forest Service Travel Management Plan and urges Forest Service management to reject these onerous restrictions on the public's use of its Forest." The article concludes with the fact that it will take other local government, groups and more citizen involvement to prevent the Forest Service from adopting the Plan.

Please let your gem and mineral clubs/society's know how teaming up with other groups of like interest can help promote the continuation of public lands remaining public. We don't have to wait for there to be a proposed closure to work together. How about a group effort to have a "clean up" day at a collecting site or county/BLM/Forest Service road. This is a good way to get to know each other and come up with ways to prevent a possible closure or restriction to public use of an area.

For more information: Blue Ribbon Coalition – www.sharetrails.org

Forest Service - <http://www.fs.fed.us>

The Citizens for Multiple Land Use and Access - www.cmluaho.com

RMFMS Directory News

by Nancy Hicks

The directories have been mailed, and a few have been returned for new addresses. If you have not received your directories, let us know. Program chairpersons; be sure you have been given the new Library listings for 2008.

Yonis Lone Eagle's address needs to be changed - PO Box 1975, Bloomfield NM 87413-1975 in the Directory and in the RMFMS Newsletter.

A correction for the address of the Enid Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. from 216 S. Randolph to 216 West Randolph, Enid, OK 73701

Norma Beers resigned her job as International Relations when she died unexpectedly last summer. She did not have time to formally resign. She had set up a very nice museum in a section of a nearby museum.

Four clubs were omitted in the 2008 directory because they did not get their current information to the editor. Be sure you send the current information to **Kay Atkinson**, please. And to **Deanna Smith**, our NEW newsletter editor to use in the newsletter. Also please send a copy to **Marie Wester**, the Library Mailer. **Marie** has a new email address: jmwester@bresnan.net

Additions to the Directory have been mailed to everyone. Printed on only one side of the paper so you can cut the club information apart to staple them in the proper place. If anyone finds any corrections to the Directory, please notify **Gene Maggard**, **Kay Atkinson**, and **Connie Bishop** if it involves mailing addresses.

The Program Library is looking for an interested person to help **Nancy Hicks** and learn the job to hopefully take over the job. Computer use is nice, but not required. Interested in helping find new programs and maintain the current programs is the main thing.

So please contact **Nancy Hicks**.

What Happened to Educational Articles?

from Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Caesar the Gofer

Pardon us while we climb on our soapbox for a few minutes, but something is happening to our club bulletins that truly concerns us. Most of our clubs are chartered as educational organizations. That should mean that their mission is to educate members and the public about our wonderful hobby. Yes, many of our clubs hold an annual show, and yes, that qualifies as an educational outreach. A few clubs offer classes in club sponsored workshops that are open to members and the public, and yes, that qualifies as an educational outreach.

Our big concern however, is that more and more of the club bulletins that are either e-mailed or snail mailed to us no longer contain educational articles! We see this as a growing trend...and a dangerous one for the health of the clubs.

Including educational articles in the club bulletin can be difficult - not all clubs are fortunate enough to have prolific authors who are willing to take a few minutes to write an article. There are several sources of articles that club editors can "borrow". Here's how:

1. Develop an exchange bulletin list. Most club editors today have access to e-mail, so the cost to the club of mailing exchange bulletins is "0". Conversion to "pdf" files takes only a minute and there are free "pdf" converter programs available.

2. Join an organization called S.C.R.I.B.E (scribesite.home.att.net/). Cost of a 1 year membership is a whopping \$6 per year (\$8 for husband and wife) and in exchange for your \$6 you will receive 4 e-mail newsletters per year PLUS an annual CD that contains copies of many, many club bulletins and articles that you can copy and use in your own club publication.

Think about the mission of your club and start adding at least one educational article to each of your bulletins. You'll be doing your part to educate the public and keep your club true to its stated mission.

Okay, we're off our soapbox and ready for some biscuits.

Taken from the AFMS Newsletter April 2008.

Filing Form 990N

by Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

Societies who are not required to file Form 990 or 990EZ with the IRS (clubs with gross receipts averaging \$25,000 or less) must now file Form 990N.

The IRS has arranged for the filing of the new Form 990N through the Urban Institute. The filing can only be accomplished via the Urban Institute website <<http://epostcard.form990.org>>.

If your club operates on a calendar year (January 1 - December 31) you must file by May 15th. Fiscal year organizations, must file within 4 months and 15 days of the organization's year end. The IRS has warned not to file until after the end of the organization's year.

You will need to have the following information before going to the website:

EIN (federal identification number)

Tax year

Legal name of the organization and mailing address.

Name and Address of a principal officer.

Web address if there is one

If you encounter any problems, please let me know. This is my tax season so allow some time for a response. My email address is <zeileitz@directcon.net>.

Taken from the AFMS Newsletter April 2008.

New Officers?

by Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator

If your club has elected officers for 2008, please take a minute to let the AFMS Central Office know who they are. Send the name and mailing address of your president, editor and either secretary or federation representative to me at <central_office@amfed.org> or snail mail the list to me at PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

Sympathy

Lisa Whiting, daughter-in-law of **Howie** and **Doris Whiting** and sister-in-law of **Diane Weir** passed away February 21st of complications from pneumonia. She was only 42 years of age and leaves behind 8 year old daughter **Kelsey** and husband **Roy (Howie & Doris' youngest son)**.

Memorial contributions may be made to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation via your regional Federation coordinator. On behalf of the entire AFMS family we extend condolences to **Howie** and **Doris** and their family.

Taken from the AFMS Newsletter April 2008.

SHOWS & MORE

REGIONAL FEDERATION SHOWS & CONVENTIONS

Northwest Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Stallknecht-Morgan Museum G&MS
Ontario Oregon
June 20 - 22, 2008

Midwest Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts:
Lincoln Nebraska
June 20 - 22, 2008

California Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: California Federation
Ventura California
June 27 - 29, 2008

South Central Federation Convention & Show

Hosts: Houston G&M Society
Humble Texas
September 25 - 28, 2008

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention & Show

Hosts: Tulsa Rockhounds
Tulsa Oklahoma
October 31 - November 2, 2008

Southeast Federation Convention & Show

Hosts:

Eastern Federation Convention & Show

Hosts:

CLUB & SOCIETY SHOWS/SWAPS

May 2 - 4, 2008, McPherson, KS

16th annual Rock Sale & Swap, sponsored by the McPherson Gem & Mineral Club. Located at 4-H Fairgrounds, Woodside and Hickory. Contact Jim Nutter 620-241-2433 or Marvin Lundquist 620-241-7003.

May 10-11, 2008, Grand Junction, CO

61st Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, "ARTS OF NATURE", Two Rivers Convention Center, 1st and Main. Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Show Chairman, Dave McCollough, 3032 Milburn Ct, Grand Junction CO 81504, 970-523-5443.

May 16 - 17, 2008, Elinwood, KS

35th Annual Rock Swap, hosted by the Ellinwood Chamber of Commerce, Buy - Sell- Trade, Bring your own table, free camping, electrical hook-up \$5.00 per day. Located at the City Park, Northwest corner of Ellinwood. For more information call 620-564-3300.

May 17-18, 2008, Cheyenne, WY

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Show, hosted by the Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society, American Legion Post 6, 2001 E Lincoln Way, Show Chairman: Paul Moot 307-634-6773, Asst Chairman: Bob King 307-632-2702.

June 21 -22, 2008, Colorado Springs, CO

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS) 44th Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show at the Phil Long Expo Center. Dr. Michael Wise of the Smithsonian is our featured guest and is bringing a display. Our theme is "Gem Stones of the U.S." which ties in nicely with the AFMS Stamp campaign. We're working with Shirley Leeson to provide museum-quality photos of the 7 Colorado gem stones. For more information: www.csms.us info@csms.us 719-683-2603.

June 21 - 22, 2008, Torrington, WY

Norma Beers Memorial Show, Hosted by the Rex Young Rock Club, Torrington Fairgrounds Rendezvous Center, Highway 26/85 West. For more information contact Kim Nielsen 308-632-2385 or Dale Tikalsky 308-632-5574 or tikalsky21@charter.net

August 21-23, 2008, Kingston, OK

Rock Swap , by R&B Storage & Rock Shop, next to Lake Texoma, located on HWY 70, ½ block South on Muncrief Road, by Ron & Barbara Evans, 580-564-3220 nights, 580-564-5846 or 580-564-9346

August 23 - September 1, 2008, Apache Creek, NM

The "Chaparral Rockhounds" of Roswell, NM, would like to cordially invite all Rockhounds of all ages to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2008", our annual ten-day, nine-night fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico, from August 23 to September 1, 2008. This is an "Inter-Federation Campout & Fieldtrip Event" for the whole family with the Rocky Mountain, California and the South Central Federations (and all other Federation who wish to attend). For any additional information about the Rendezvous, please contact Yonis Lone Eagle, RMFMS Vice President & New Mexico/Texas State Director at 505-860-2455 or via e-mail at: rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com. All rockhounds that attend will abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies "Code of Conduct".

September 19 - 21, 2008, Enid, OK

Enid Gem & Mineral Show, Hoover Building at the Garfield County Fair Grounds, Friday & Saturday 9:AM-5:PM Sunday 10:AM-5:PM. For more info. contact Billy E. Wood 580-234-5344. There is a \$1.00 donation, profits go toward Scholarship funds.

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: Deanna Smith, deanna.smith@safeway.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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