



Rocky Mountain Federation News

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From Your President's Pen

By Bill Smith

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I hope everyone has had an opportunity to read the September issue of our newsletter. Of major concern is the Senate Bill "Tony Dean Cheyenne Valley Conservation Act of 2010." It proposes to remove part of the Fairburn Agate collecting area, and I am sure if it passes more will be removed later. It is time to call, write or e-mail your Congressmen and ask them to vote against this acquisition. Lets keep as much of our country "multiple usage" as possible. This is very important to all of us rockhounds. I do want to go back and see if I can find the Fairburn's I almost found this year.



I am not sure how much time we will have before and after the RMFMS show in Colorado Springs next year but after reading the articles "All Roads Lead to Colorado Springs" our stay gets longer. I hope you are planning to see some of the beautiful sites and maybe go on a field trip before or after the show.

Janet and I are back on our feet. I was able to get both shoes on last week. We are now planning on heading to Denver for the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. I will be meeting with Richard Jaeger, and we plan to talk to the Denver Clubs. I hope to get them active in the Federation again.

Dove season opens the first and duck the 15th of September, so action should soon get fast and furious around here.

Until next month,

Bill

As time moves forward with modern technology, "the way it's always been done" may change. That's the fate of our newsletter. We are now sending more issues via email than US postage and need to revamp our format for easier reading on a computer screen. I hope you will bare with me until I get everything tweaked.



If the font is too small, please increase the size of the document view; size 102 displays the full width of the page—no more scrolling from the bottom back to the top to finish an article.

Betty Cain, Editor



Notes from Your Vice President

By DeLane Cox

Finally the weather feels like Fall is coming. And, this is a wonderful time to get out and go look for rocks - pretty ones, shiny ones, cutable ones.

There are many fall shows and swaps on the calendar. I hope you get to a few of them. I certainly am going to try to get to a couple. This is my opportunity to get new additions to my collection for wire wrapping.

If your club is hosting a show or swap, see if you can get part of the proceeds donated to the Scholarship fund. This is really a great way to be sure that there are rockhounds in the future. Scholarships are awarded to two graduate students in each region of the American Federation. It is hoped that the infusion of funds will keep them on track to work in a field of earth science and encourage them to become members of a rock club in the future.

Y'know, it is less than four months until the wonderful winter holiday when we look forward to gift-giving. Remember some of your rockhound friends and give them a stone they don't have or a tool that will make their hunting easier.

Happy Rockin' Fall!

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Deadline

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Gene Maggard



If you were the treasurer for your organization but are no longer, would you please forward this newsletter to the new treasurer and ask them to contact me with updated treasurer contact information?

**Due\$ Due\$ Due\$**

Yes, it is that time, again. Dues from each club/society are due by **December 15**. December 15 is the magic date, because we need to get your club reports that accompany the dues payments in order to include your club information in the RMFMS 2009-10 Directory. If you are having officer elections in January, as some clubs do, please call or email me; we will see what we can do to get your new officer information in the directory.

Dues notices and forms will be sent to each club by email, where there is an email address available, in mid-October. Notices to other clubs will be by US mail. If you receive the dues notice but are no longer the treasurer or other officer, please forward it to your treasurer as requested in the notice. As explained on the form, we are requesting that you send in the annual reports using email and Word if possible. Otherwise, use USPS. Just follow the directions on the form.

If your club does not receive the dues notice either by email or USPS by November 1, please contact me ASAP at 316-742-3746 or gandpmaggard@wildblue.net so that we can arrange to get your club information to me by the December 15 deadline. You can also access the dues form on the RMFMS website, <http://www.rmfmts.org/letter.htm>.

Dues from each club are determined by multiplying \$1.50 times each dues-paying member age 12 or older in your club as of October 31, 2010. Clubs having family memberships should count each family member age 12 or older.

Clubs wishing to be covered by the RMFMS arranged liability insurance should include payment as directed on the report form. This insurance is for club general liability coverage. Show, meeting place, and field trip activities are covered. If you have a landlord that requires an "additional named insurance certificate," one can be provided at no additional charge. Many clubs still has some remaining insurance credit from the overpayment in 2008-9. The report form instructions will specify how to apply the credit.

Please feel free to contact me at the above addresses if you have any questions.

BEASTS OF BURDEN

Three animals are outstanding examples of the Beast of Burden class: the mule, the camel, and the simple-minded rockhound.



The mule is smart - put one pound more than his usual load on him, and he simply balks until it is removed.

The camel is even more decided in his ideas - try overloading him and he'll stay in the sand, and if you persist, will spit his cud at you.



But that simple-minded rockhound? He takes 15 to 20 pounds of equipment in with him, then tries to load on about 50 to 60 pounds of rock and carry it back to the car on the road. Does this sound familiar to anyone?

Via Quarry Quips 9/10, via BEMS Tumbler 7/10, via Conglomerate, 3/09; via The Rockpile, 2/09; from The T Town Rockhound, 11/08

ALL ROADS LEAD TO COLORDAO SPRINGS: RMFMS 2011—MT. ANTERO

BY DR. MIKE NELSON, CSMS & LGGMC



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



Fig. 1. Mt. Antero, 14269 feet, as viewed from "North Carbonate" Peak. Major collecting area is on lower peak in the middle. As this photo was shot, I was rapidly trying to "beat the storm" and get off the exposed rocks above timberline.

near El Paso, TX to near Kremmling, Colorado. The Rio Grande River in New Mexico and Colorado, and the upper Arkansas and Blue rivers in Colorado all flow in grabens created in the fault system. A graben is a down-dropped valley created by parallel faults on either side of the valley. The rift system near Mt. Antero effectively split the Sawatch Anticline into two segments, the Sawatch and the Mosquito, separated by the Arkansas River. This, and later, faulting helped create the spectacular topographic relief between the river valley and the mountain—Antero, and other mountains, simply seem to rise straight up out of the valley.

The Sawatch Range contains some of the most spectacular, and highest, mountains in the western U.S. Mounts Holy Cross, Massive, Elbert (highest in Colorado at 14443 feet), La Plata, Belford, Oxford, Huron, Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Missouri, Princeton, Antero, Tabeguache, Shavano, and Ouray all crest out in excess of 14000 feet (Fig. 2). Geologically, the Range is a very large anticline with a Precambrian core of granites and gneisses surrounded by Paleozoic sedimentary rocks. Crustal shortening in the latest Cretaceous, somewhere in the neighborhood of 70 Ma, created the dome and 30 million years later the sedimentary cover was eroded away. The pioneer geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden stated this quite nicely in his 1874 tome: *We may safely assert that at some period comparatively modern, 10,000 to 15,000 feet of sedimentary rock extended uninterruptedly from the South Park across the interval now occupied by the Sawatch Range, all of which, but insignificant remnants, have been swept away.* Perhaps around 10 Ma rifting of the Rio Grande-Arkansas trench reached the area and the spectacular eastern front was formed.

RMFMS visitors to Colorado Springs for the summer 2011 meeting may have an interest in collecting aquamarines and other minerals at one of Colorado's most famous collecting localities, Mt. Antero near Buena Vista, approximately 100 miles southwest of the Springs. Collectors, both amateurs and professionals, have been chasing beryllium minerals, but especially aquamarines, for decades on the mountain and surrounding peaks (principally Mt. White).

Mt. Antero (named after the Ute Chief Antero) and Mt. White (no reference in GNIS) are located in the Sawatch Range south of Buena Vista and east of Nathrop, Colorado and provide for a stunning view from the Arkansas River Valley. The Valley is at an approximate elevation of ~7600 feet while Mt. Antero reaches 14269 feet, a topographic relief of 6669 feet. The Sawatch Range is a large Laramide (refers to a crustal shortening, compressional, mountain building event in the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary, ~72-~50 Ma) anticlinal structure that at one time included the southern part of the Mosquito Range east across the Arkansas River. During the late Tertiary, a crustal extension event (stretching) culminated in a series of block faulted mountains and basins in central Colorado. The major topographic and structural feature in Colorado is the Rio Grande Rift Zone that trends from



Fig. 2. Sawatch Range looking north from Mt. Shavano. Mt. Antero is the prominent peak in the right-center. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia.

The geology of Mt. Antero/Mt. White has been described in numerous publications, the most comprehensive being Mark Jacobson's book entitled *Antero Aquamarines* (1993). In general, Mt. Antero/Mt. White is underlain by a rock unit termed the Mt. Antero Granite. McIntosh and Chapin (2004) have assigned a date of 29.6 million years to the granite, or mid-Oligocene in age. Sharp (1976) described the granite as: chiefly pinkish-orange, medium grained and the youngest of the plutons (intrusive igneous rocks) in the vicinity of Mt. Princeton. Crystal lined cavities often containing unusual minerals are common and are often filled with minerals such as beryl (including aquamarine), phenakite, and smoky quartz. It is from these miarolitic cavities, or "pockets" that come the fantastic "matrix" crystals such as the specimen Steve Brancato collected from Diane's Pocket in 2004. The specimen, with the giant aquamarine crystals, now on display at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, measures an astonishing 37in x 25in (Fig. 3).

Most gem seekers who make their way to Mt. Antero/Mt. White are often hunting for the beryllium minerals beryl var. aquamarine (Beryllium aluminum silicate) and phenakite (Beryllium silicate), or fluorite (Calcium fluoride), topaz (Aluminum silicate) or one of the quartz varieties (Silicon dioxide)---smoky or crystal. Voynick (2002) gave a good history of the gem mining beginning with Nelson Wannamaker in 1881. Modreski and Murphy (2002) reported an 18.95 carat, faceted aquamarine and a 15.55 carat, faceted amber topaz while Voynick (2002) noted a 50-pound smoky quartz. The area also is the major U.S. producer of phenakite crystals (Voynick, 2002). Today, many of the rock and mineral shops in neighboring towns display/sell beautiful specimens of faceted aquamarines. And, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science has a fantastic display of Antero aquamarines.

In addition to those listed above, Jacobson (1993) noted the occurrence of the following minerals at Mt. Antero/Mt. White: Albite, Amethyst, Apatite, Bazzite, Bertrandite, Biotite, Bismuthinite, Bismutite, Brannerite, Calcite, Chrysocolla, Gadolinite, Spessartine garnet, Goethite, Helvite, Hematite, Ilmenorutile, Magnetite, Microcline, Muscovite, Orthoclase, Pyrite, Sulfur, Titanite, Triplite, and Zircon.

In traveling to Mt. Antero from the Springs, visitors usually take U. S. 24 west, over the Rampart Range, to Woodland Park, through the Florissant lake beds, and then crest the Tarryall Mountains/Puma Hills at Wilkerson Pass, and then down into South Park and Hartsel. U. S. 24 then continues southwest over Trout Creek Pass to Buena Vista.

The route most collectors use to reach the high country from Buena Vista is to travel south on U. S. 285 to Nathrop and then west on CC 162 to the Baldwin Gulch Road (elevation: 9420 feet), the major trailhead for west Mt. Antero (the hiking purists take this route for about 7 miles to the Antero parking area and then bushwhack up to the summit to an elevation of 14269 feet). However, I usually choose not to hike but to travel in a high-clearance (must ford Baldwin Creek) 4-wheel drive vehicle to the parking area (elevation: 13,700 feet) on the southwest flank of Mt. Antero. At this elevation virtually no person will be seen bounding across the rocks at a high speed; oxygen is scarce!

The Baldwin Creek Road is often a challenge, even in the best of weather. In June the road might be either opened or closed and prospective collectors should check with either the U. S. Forest Service or a member of CSMS before starting the trek. Some years there may be possible travel to approximately the switchbacks where snow drifts block the road and bushwhacking to the collecting area is necessary. My advice is also to arrive at the trailhead very early in the morning so that you may descend before afternoon storms arrive. The weather systems move rather rapidly and often catch collectors far from their campground or vehicle.

Once at the parking level collectors will be able to observe numerous prospecting holes and talus; several claims are in the area. One place to start looking is immediately east of the parking area "behind" the large rocks---examine the weathered material in the crevices---where I have had good luck with terminated smoky quartz crystals. During my last trip I was able to locate a significant number of aquamarine crystal fragments occurring as float to the west of the parking area in the weathered granite. Prospectors also may then decide to "dig" and look for the pockets of gems in the pegmatite cavities. If collectors are up to a small hike consider Mt. White (13667 feet) to the south. I have had good luck finding decent crystals of common beryl, small aquamarines, small phenakites, and tiny, but terminated, quartz crystals. Of course if you want to summit a "Colorado 14er" head up the talus slope to the top of Mt. Antero (14269 feet).

In the world of gems, the collecting fields of Mt. Antero are known worldwide. So, RMFMS visitors to Colorado Springs might (much depends upon the weather) have a very good chance of finding decent crystals, even specimens capable of being faceted. So, if you are in good physical shape and can handle high elevations, and have access to a high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle, consider a trip to a beautiful and fantastic location.

Portions of this article appear on the website of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club.

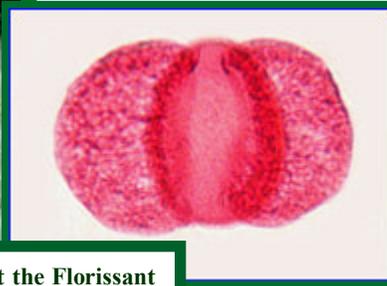


Fig. 3 Aquamarine crystals (and smoky quartz) from Diane's Pocket. Photo courtesy Craig Walker, Denver Post.



FOSSIL POLLEN REVEALS FLORISSANT'S ICE AGE ENVIRONMENT

By Steven Wade Veatch, CSMS/LGMMS



New pollen evidence from the mammoth site at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Colorado reveals environmental conditions during one of the warm, interglacial periods of Teller County's Ice Age.

Out of the mists of prehistory—through fossil pollen and spores—comes an unprecedented glimpse into Florissant's past. Experts used cutting-edge science to examine pollen and spores buried with a fossil mammoth to better understand the Ice Age world of Florissant.



The Florissant mammoth lived and died more than 50,000 years ago, during the last Ice Age. Its bones were fossilized safely in the ground until a student intern found it in 1994. During careful excavation of the mammoth, all of the fossil material was collected and bagged—including soil, gravel, and sediment samples. A molar tooth and part of the mammoth's jaw were the main fossils recovered. Scientists used these to identify the mammoth as a Columbian mammoth.

A lab recently analyzed a sample from the sediment layer just below the mammoth. The lab determined that the sedimentary layer is a limestone containing fine sandy and silty quartz grains.

Figure 1. Image of a hickory (*Carya*) pollen grain. Pollen grains are incredibly resistant and are difficult to destroy by physical or chemical processes. The plentiful and hardy nature of pollen makes it a rich source of data about past climates in specific places. Photo by D. Jarzen.

The lab first prepared the limestone for processing to recover pollen and spore grains. Solutions of corrosive chemicals such as potassium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, and hydrogen fluoride removed the organic and mineral particles in the sample. The pollen, because it is composed of some of the most chemically resistant organic compounds in nature, survived this harsh chemical processing.

Next, lab workers made microscope slides from the residual pollen and carefully examined them. When viewed with a microscope, pollen grains from different plants have distinctive appearances that can identify the plant species they came from. The pollen and spores were identified and counted.

The lab work identified an amazing assemblage of Ice Age vegetation at Florissant, making it possible to reconstruct much of the local environment based on these tiny fossils. A major surprise was finding hickory (*Carya*) and oak (*Quercus*)—both hardwoods—in the Rocky Mountains from a lab sample that was at least 50,000 years old. From microscopic examination of the hardwood pollen it appears that they grew locally during the Ice Age. There is no reason to think they are reworked from sediments redeposited from earlier times.

The pollen and spore assemblage is a tiny time capsule from Florissant's Ice Age and reveals that Florissant had a dry climate during this interglacial period—indicated by the abundance of pine pollen and rock moss (*Selaginella*). The landscape was relatively open and covered with vegetation. Scattered stands of pine, along with some hardwoods growing near streams, dotted the landscape. Groundcover included asters, daisies, sunflowers (Compositae), and sagebrush. Most important was the rock moss, which grows on rocks and thrives on direct sunlight. Rock moss is a key indicator of a dry climate.

Florissant's fossil mammoth and associated material continues to yield scientific infor-



Figure 2. Image of an aster pollen grain. Because most plant species have distinctive pollen shapes, botanists can identify from which plant the pollen came, allowing scientists to determine the plants found in a certain place at a given time. Photo by D. Jarzen.

mation. The current pollen study is important because in the continental United States there is little information on interglacial floras. The Florissant pollen adds significantly to our understanding of North American interglacial floras.

The Florissant mammoth and its associated pollen has not only unlocked some of the secrets of Florissant's Ice Age, but has earned an enduring place in the paleontological record.

Note: Steven Veatch is the principal investigator working on the Florissant pollen project. His team includes David Jarzen of the University of Florida, Estella Leopold of the University of Washington, and Herbert Meyer of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

SCHOLARSHIP GRATITUDE

BY STEVEN VEATCH



Greetings,

Following is a thank you letter written to the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds from Elizabeth Waite. She was the paleontology intern that our organizations supported financially this summer. Pooled with money from the gold mine and other sources, your contribution supported her for the entire summer. Elizabeth was aware of each organization's contribution and appreciated the funding.

The important thing to know is that through our contributions we provided valuable work experience in paleontology. Without the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, and the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine, the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds could not continue this very valuable program.

I also THANK the above organizations.

Steven Veatch, President
Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds,

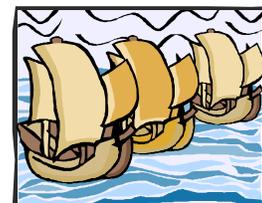
I would like to thank you for your support of the paleontology internship program at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Because of your generous support, I was afforded a truly irreplaceable internship experience full of personal and intellectual growth.

I am currently an undergraduate Geosciences student at the University of Texas at Dallas. Paleontology has always been an academic interest of mine, and this internship has allowed me to participate in projects that are very unique to the Florissant, Colorado area.

As an intern at the Fossil Beds this summer, my work focused on creating application documents for a proposed local Geopark. I was given the opportunity to learn about the remarkable history and geology of not only the Florissant Fossil Beds but of the entire south-central Colorado region from Florissant to Cañon City. My project allowed me to gain valuable experience collaborating with others, communicating about geologic resources, and developing proficiency with the map creation program, ArcMap. In addition to my Geopark work, I was able to assist on other paleontology projects going on this summer, including excavations, inventory, and monitoring projects.

My time at Florissant has been challenging and beneficial. I appreciate the contributions you made that allowed me to come to Florissant and be a part of the exciting projects taking place at the Monument.

Best regards,
Elizabeth Waite



Happy Columbus Day

THE TIE THAT BINDS

BY SARA MURPHY, MCPHERSON G&M

I listen to stories of gem and mineral club members telling of experiences of hunting for rocks in other states and have not had that luxury. Kansas has been my state, and I collect here with my grandchildren who are in 4-H. My husband is a fisherman and not a rockhound, so I don't travel far.

In 2009 I was invited to go with my daughter-in-law to South Dakota for a family reunion. Here we were in this beautiful state wanting to hunt rocks but not knowing where. The invitation was extended again this year. My husband and son decided we should all go.

We had directions to hunt in the Ogallala Nebraska Grasslands on our way to South Dakota. We left early to allow time to hunt. With good directions from a fellow club member (thank you George) we were able to find the location and enjoyed a couple of hours hunting. The grandsons had to step lightly around the cactus.

My dream was to hunt agates in South Dakota, but I thought there wasn't much chance of that, not knowing the locations.

Prior to our trip, I looked in *Rock and Gem* for information of rock shows in South Dakota. It just happened we would miss a show a week earlier near our destination, but I took a chance and called the show contact person to inquire about hunting or field trips. I certainly called the right person! A couple of phone calls later and expecting to be pointed in the right direction, we met Deb.

She stepped out of her vehicle, and I got out of our car, both with boxes of rocks to exchange from our states. She said, "Follow me", and off we went. She took us to one of her favorite collecting spots. She didn't just leave us there but stayed half a day showing us what to hunt for. She gave us tips and was so very generous with her time and information.

As a result, we collected bubble gum agate, prairie agates, petrified wood, and chalcedony, among other pretty rocks.

Right from the beginning it seemed like we had kindred spirits and were friends. That's the beauty of our hobby, friends willing to share time and information.

Thank you, Deb Radowski of the Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. I have a bucket of pretty rocks, my husband enjoyed collecting rocks for the first time, and the boys have rocks to tumble, cut, and polish.

ACROY NOMINATION

BY GERRI NAUGLE, FMC

TREASURER

The two co-winners of the Flatirons Mineral Club Rockhound of the Year voting for 2010 are **Gabi Accatino** and **Anita Colin**, both of Boulder, CO.



The FMC would like to submit these two winners for mention by the AFMS.

MONTHLY CLUB SPOTLIGHT



There is still time to let us know about the special things your club does and perhaps a bit of your history. This month we are featuring another Colorado club and two from Kansas. Just send your information to the editor at bettycain3@comcast.net. **We want to hear from every club in the Rocky Mountain Federation!**

LITTLETON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB

FROM THE LITTLETON CLUB WEB SITE



The Littleton Gem and Mineral Club was established in 1961 to offer its members opportunities to enjoy gems, minerals, fossils and jewelry as a hobby.

In the Beginning... by Mary Rybicki, February 20, 1981

I was asked to prepare a little talk on the beginning of the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, as I am one of the charter members.

I think that it was sometime in 1960 that Mrs. Cox called me and said that she, her husband, Chester Young, Martha Meston, Beulah Lind, and Mary Frazier were making plans to start a gem club in Littleton. She asked if my husband and I would help. She knew we were members of the Colorado Mineral Society and were charter members of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, a new club that had just started up.

I told her we would be glad to do all we could. So, we had a meeting and decided to put a paper on Martha Meston's desk, where she worked for the Littleton Chamber of Commerce. She would ask all of the people who came to her for information as to whether they would be interested in joining a mineral club in Littleton. If so, she would ask them to write their names and phone numbers on the sheet of paper.

It was not too long before we had quite a list of names; as near as I can remember, there were about 97. So, we proceeded to find a place to meet. We were able to get a room at the YMCA, where we could hold meetings on the last Friday of every month. We set a date for the first meeting. We called all the names on the paper and invited them to this meeting. We also put an announcement in the Littleton newspaper and invited all interested people to attend. Not everyone came who signed the paper, but we were surprised at the large number who did come.

We made plans to draw up some by-laws, rules, and to elect a president and officers to run the club and hold meetings. I cannot for sure remember who the first president was, but it seems like it was Paul Nichols. I do know for sure that Jim Craig was elected president for 1962-1963 to serve from September to May. Mary Frazier was Vice-President and I was secretary and treasurer. Paul Nichols, Paul Ebertz, and Bill Korenke were on the board of trustees.

It was not long until we had a very enthusiastic group of members lined up. We got our field trips planned for the summer, potluck dinners set, and made provision for refreshments after the meetings. We appointed a Welcoming Hostess who signed up the visitors at each meeting and then introduced them to the members present. I served several times in this capacity down through the years.

We always welcomed children with their parents to our meetings. At one time we elected a committee which started a class for the "Pebble Pups," the children of our members. A couple of members would help with this at each regular meeting. We would take the children to a different room and teach them about rocks and minerals while their parents had their own meeting. I helped with this and enjoyed working with the children.

I feel we got a good firm foundation for this club because here twenty years later, it is still going strong. I am very proud of all the people who support it and keep it going. I am proud to have had a small part in getting it started. I am still very interested in the club. I do not attend meetings too often as my husband passed away in 1972, and I do not drive alone at night . . .

My husband and I never made much headway in this hobby until we joined a club. You learn from each other, you share your ideas, you go on field trips, you make wonderful friends, and you meet the most interesting and likeable people in the world in the clubs, I think. So stay with your club. That is my advice after 30 years in the clubs.

NORTH CENTRAL KANSAS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

BY NATALIE VESTA, VICE PRESIDENT/BULLETIN EDITOR



The North Central Rock and Gem Club, formed in December of 2008, boasts of 35 active members--from 4-Hers to adult hobbyists. The members come from North Central Kansas and South Central Nebraska to share their collections and tell interesting stories about their finds. Members include those with special interests and skills in fossil identification and preservation, gem faceting, cabochon cutting, 4-H geology leadership, and community education.

Marty Weber, founder and president of the club, wanted to share his experiences through a club for a long time. However, getting a club together takes a lot of time, and he persevered. He went to flea markets and shows and got the names of at least 50 interested people. After talking to Marvin Lundquist (President of the McPherson Rock and Gem Club and Former State Director of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Society), Marty

held the first organizational meeting on December 30, 2008. The club has since sponsored numerous field trips, hosted several guest expert speakers, and featured displays at several regional rock shows and community events.

For a fundraiser, club members collaborated to create dig-a-fossil blocks, where youth can pick and dig out fossils and other small rock/fossil/mineral treasures. The block comes with tools designed to help the youngster break into the block, where he/she is guaranteed to find at least one real fossil. The club also raises money through annual dues (\$15 per individual/\$25 per family) and a monthly silent auction.

At the Palmer (Kansas) Labor Day festival (2010), the club hosted its first rock show. In addition to NCK members, enthusiasts from the McPherson, Lincoln, and Omaha clubs participated. NCK members David Stuenkel and Marty Weber showed how to cut rocks and cabs, Si Kelly and Andrew Blazek demonstrated faceting, and John Epich shared part of his unique rock and fossil collection.

The club meets every 4th Tuesday at 7:00 at the Pony Express Café in Hanover, Kansas. The officers are:

Marty Weber~president	Bob Larson~treasurer
Natalie Vesta~vice president	Natalie Vesta~bulletin editor
Nancy Vesta~secretary	

Interested Rockhounds may contact Marty at (785)763-4316 or mrtnwbr@yahoo.com.

MCPHERSON GEM & MINERAL CLUB

By Kim Vasper, MGMC Publicity & Membership Chair



I'd like to introduce you all to the McPherson Gem & Mineral Club from McPherson, Kansas. This is our 51st year as a club. We currently are a group of 119 individuals from all over Kansas and beyond (three of our members are from Minnesota). Our membership ranges in age from a few years old to well over ninety, including a charter member of our club. The diversity in age also translates into a diversity of interests. Many members enjoy collecting rocks, minerals and fossils, some do lapidary and make jewelry, but we all enjoy learning about earth science.

Our club meets the second Tuesday of every month at the McPherson Senior Center. The meeting begins with a short business meeting, a brief "Rock of the Month" talk, a speaker (or earth-science related DVD), and a door prize drawing for guests and youth members. During the meeting, members have the opportunity to display current finds, lapidary work or other items of interest on the "Show and Share" table or bid on items donated to the Silent Auction. The meeting ends with refreshments and conversations about what's happening in the world of rockhounding.

Club members enjoy the opportunity to go on monthly field trips (excluding December). We have collecting field trips as the weather permits. In July, the club did some fossil collecting on their way to tour the SuperCroc exhibit at the Sternberg Museum in Hays. Once a year the club enjoys overnight collecting field trips. Recent destinations for these trips have been the hourglass selenite beds in Oklahoma and the chalk beds in Western Kansas. During those months when the weather doesn't cooperate, we have field trips to museums or tours of our members' collections.

We have an active Junior member program. Our younger members go on the field trips, present "Junior Spot" talks at our monthly meetings, and participate in the AFMS Juniors Future Rockhounds of America badge program. Several of our younger members are also involved in the Kansas 4-H Program's Geology Project. They prepare the specimens they collect from Kansas and exhibit them in display boxes (up to 65 specimens) at their county fairs. Exhibits earning purple ribbons advance to the State Fair in Hutchinson. This year there will be exhibits from nine Junior Members at the State Fair in September.

"The Post Rock", our club's monthly newsletter is another benefit to club members. It contains written versions of the "Rock of the Month", "Junior Spot" and speaker's presentations, as well as news of concern to members from the Rocky Mountain and American Federations.

On May 6-8, 2011, the club will hold its 19th annual "Rock Swap and Sale". Our club members and vendors from neighboring states bring in handmade jewelry, lapidary work, and specimens for sale. There are displays and collections, a kids spin-in-win, and hourly door prizes at our free event.

We would enjoy meeting other rockhounds. Please come and join us at a monthly meeting or our "Swap" next May. For more information, email our club at mcpheongemmineral@hotmail.com.

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

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

You may include other info about your show if you wish but will only be printed as space permits.

All RMFMS clubs are also encouraged to register their event listings on the RMFMS web site at: www.rmfmts.org. Email your submissions to the Webmaster.

Sept 28—October 3, 2010 Idabel, OK

McCurtain Gem and Mineral Club annual show and sale. Museum of the Red River, 812 Lincoln Road, Free Admission hours: Tue–Sat. 9–5, Sunday Oct. 3 1–4 PM Contact: Cephis Hall, 580–494–6612 or Doris Perkins, 580–286–3133

October 8–10, 2010 Sierra Vista, AZ

36th Annual Huachuca Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show at the Elks Lodge on Wilcox Ave. Presented by the Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club. Contact Maudie Bailey at 520–378–6291.

October 8–10, 2010 Moab, UT

51st annual show; Moab Points & Pebbles Rock Club; Old Spanish Trail Arena, 5 miles south of Moab on Hwy. 191; Fri. 10–7, Sat. 10–7, Sun. 10–4; free admission; vendors, demonstrations, spin wheel, displays, door prizes, field trips; contact Jerry Hansen, P.O. Box 1459, Moab, UT 84532; moabrockclub@live.com.

October 9–10, 2010 Annual Rockfest in Ft Worth, TX

Held in conjunction with LMRA annual Model Railroader's Show and Pottery in the Park show & sale; on the scenic banks of the Trinity River, 3400 Bryant Irving Rd, Fort Worth, 10a–5p, free attendance; steve.l.shearin@lmco.com for info or vendor space.

October 9–10, 2010 Sierra Vista, AZ

36th annual show, Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club, Elks Lodge, Wilcox Ave., Sat. 9–6, Sun. 9–4; free admission, live demonstrations, educational displays, dealers, jewelry, gems, fossils, equipment, lapidary supplies; contact Maudie Bailey, PO Box 1596, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636, 520–378–6291; gmbailey@msn.com.

October 16–17, 2010 Sedona, AZ

Sedona Gem & Mineral Club; Sedona Red Rock High School Cafeteria, 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd.; Sat. 10–5, Sun. 10–4; free admission; guest speakers, slide shows, Kids' Corner, displays, demonstrations, raffle, gemstones, minerals, crystals, fossils, beads, jewelry; contact Gayle Macklin, P.O. Box 3932, Sedona, AZ 86340, (928) 399–9588; ayleis@gmail.com.

October 22–24 Austin, TX

Show, "Gem Capers 2010"; Austin Gem & Mineral Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9–5, Sat. 10–6, Sun. 10–5; adults \$5 (all three days), seniors \$4, children 13–18 \$1, 6–12 50 cents, 5 and under free; more than 30 vendors, displays, Rock Food Table, touch table of rocks and fossils, demonstrations of cabbaging, wire wrapping, faceting, polymer clay, fossil cleaning, kids'

day Friday, Wheel of Fortune, Gem Mine, jewelry making, rocks that glow in the dark, grand prize; contact Brian Wetzig, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458–9546; ShowChairman@AustinGemAndMineral.org; www.GemCapers.com.

October 29–31, 2010 Ogden, UT

"ROCK YOUR WORLD" rock, gem, mineral and fossil show, 10a–7p, Golden Spike Event Center (Weber Count Fair Grounds), 1000 N. 1200 W; contact Cynthia Aeschlimann, (801) 458–0337, cinaea@gmail.com.

November 6–7, 2010 Amarillo, TX

Annual show; Golden Spread Gem & Mineral Society; Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan; Sat. 10–6, Sun. 10–5; admission \$2; jewelry, gems, minerals, fossils, metal detectors, working demonstrations; contact Roy or Wanda Finley, 9170 FM 1151, Claude, TX 79019, (806) 944–5464; finfran@midplains.Coop.

November 13–14, 2010 Lake Havasu City, AZ

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

December 3–5, 2010 El Paso, TX

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

December 10–12, 2010 Boulder, CO

Flatirons Gem & Mineral Club Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Boulder County Fairgrounds Building, 9595 Nelson Rd. (Nelson & Hover), Longmont, CO, Fri. 10–6, Sat. 9–5, Sun. 10–5 Age 13 and up \$3 on Friday, \$5 on Sat. and Sunday, 12 and under free with paid adult; held in conjunction with the Boulder Model Railroad Club Annual Show, Contact Ray Gilbert, HOSSIONE@cs.com.

January 1–31, 2011 Quartzsite, AZ

Show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park, 1064 Kuehn St. (I–10 Exit 17, south side); 9–6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn St., Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927–6361; info@desertgardensrvpark.net, www.desertgardensrvpark.net.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN & ALL SAINTS DAY



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