



ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION NEWS

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE BY RMFMS OUTGOING EDITOR ALICE LABONTE

This is my second to last issue as RMFMS editor. As 2016 draws to a close, my editorship must also come to a close. My move from Arizona to Oregon has allowed me to expand my career opportunities, thus has increased my workload.

I want to thank the RMFMS for allowing me to be their editor and polish my editing skills. Finally, as always if you have any corrections, please let me know so that the new editor will have updated information.

TREASURE'S REPORT- BY RMFMS TREASURER GENE MAGGARD

Final financial numbers are just about complete, with just a couple of items not yet finalized. It looks like we will finish fiscal year 2015-16 with income exceeding expenses by about \$3,000. The major items accounting for the surplus are: Dues income exceeded budget by \$1,800; Insurance premium income exceeded expense by \$1,000, and State director travel

expense was under budget by \$900. The dues income was up because of increased membership. The insurance premium surplus was because of increased insurance subscriptions with only a small increase in the premium with our insurance carrier. State Director travel expense was \$900 under budget because only one Director turned in any travel expenses.

The new fiscal year began November 1. The RMFMS annual report form went to all clubs on October 15 by email, with the contact person generally being the treasurer for the clubs. If your club contact has not received the report form then I need to know. Annual reports, dues and insurance are due December 15.

ACROY - BY RMFMS MEMBERS LIZ THOMAS AND RICHARD JAEGER

The Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society would like to designate Kenneth Siler as our Club Rockhound of the Year. Ken has been a member of our club for almost twenty years and is now serving as our Field Trip Chairman for the fourth time. Despite having some health problems Ken does an excellent job of scouting out collecting locations. He always pays attention to details and gives excellent advice on what to expect and what to bring to make the trip successful. He often brings extra equipment and sup-

plies himself, always keeping in mind that women as well as men will be on the trip. Ken is a great asset in the working exhibits at our shows and other functions. He brings his rock saw and shows kids (and adults) how to cut rocks and shape stones. He has a way with kids and the parents are always busy taking pictures. He is very safety conscious and makes sure the procedures are done in the right way. He brings things specimens for

kids to the club meetings; he gives from the heart. Ken is very deserving of being our AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year.



RMFMS SAYS FAREWELL TO SOME FRIENDS ...

He was a good friend and advisor to many of us and will truly be missed.

John Alf (1922-2016)

John Alf, who served as Rocky Mountain Federation President in 1985-86, passed away last March at age 93. His wife Dixie Lee, who passed away several years ago, had also served as RMFMS President. John was a long time member of the Osage Hills Gem and Mineral Society in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and later was a member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society.

His main interest was fossils. He and Dixie entered many fossil exhibits in competition and also served as fossil judges at local, regional, and national shows. John was also very in-

terested in preserving field collecting opportunities and served for many years at the Rocky Mountain Federation PLAC representative for Oklahoma. I understand that he was also responsible for the writing of the initial RMFMS President's Hat Operating Procedure. The Alfs were very generous people. They often brought enough material to give away, fossils, minerals, etc., to our meetings in Tulsa so that everyone in attendance would have something to add to their collection. John was a dedicated rockhound who will be missed.

Fred Schaefermeyer

Fred served our federations in a variety of offices and chairmanships including AFMS and EFMLS presidents. He was also selected to both the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame (2000) and the Microounters Hall of Fame (1996). He was also active in most of the local Washington DC and northern Virginia mineral clubs serving all as president numerous times, bulletin editor, conference chairman, etc., etc., etc. Fred passed away on October 9, 2016, he was 97. He was a good friend and advisor to many of us and will truly be missed.

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION - BY RMFMS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RICHARD JAEGER

The total amount of scholarships given out since the inception of the Foundation is now over \$1.75 million.

The Rocky Mountain Federation and member clubs donated \$4,056.99 to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation during the 2015/2016 fiscal year. The donations received are as follows:

Chaparral Rockhounds - \$241.50
 Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society - \$300.00 The contribution credited to this club was from Muriel Frink. \$250 was a memorial for Fred Schaefermeyer, and \$50 was a memorial for Ed Romack.
 Fred Schaefermeyer - \$75.00 as a memorial to John Spanaogle.
 Hutchinson Gem & Mineral Society - \$488.67. This club disbanded and contributed this amount.
 RMFMS - \$1,740.93 from inter-

est off investments.

Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club - \$100.00

Stillwater Mineral and Gem Society - \$50.00 \$25 was a memorial for Eelyn Hirsch and \$25 was a memorial for Jack Bivens.

Topeka Gem and Mineral Society - \$528.39. \$50 was donated by Dr. Matthew Brueseke, a speaker from Kansas State University at one of their meetings. Another \$50 was a memorial donation for Iona Faulk.

Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society - \$324.00. \$70 was a donation from Richard Jaeger as an assessment for the improper wearing of the Presidents Hat.

Another \$267 has been donated since November 1st.

Wichita Gem & Mineral Society - \$450.00. Three memorial contributions of \$50 each for Fred Bower, Terry Davis, and Claude Matney are included.

I wish to thank all of above for their contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. I know a couple of other clubs have contacted me about making donations in the near future. I hope that a number of your clubs will make donations during our 2016/2017 fiscal year. Remember that \$48,000 in scholarships is provided each year to graduate students in the GeoSciences through our Foundation. The total amount of scholarships given out since the inception of the Foundation is now over \$1.75 million.

The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Federation is to bring a closer association of all clubs in the Society, and to promote the study of earth sciences, including the lapidary arts, the study of fossils and paleontology, and related crafts.

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are appointed by
the President.*

2017 RMFMS OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS – *CONTINUED*

The RMFMS was organized in 1941, and held its first annual convention at the Argonaut Hotel in Denver, Colorado. There were 16 organizations in attendance. The RMFMS became one of the original four founders of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies when it was organized in 1947.

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The Rocky Mountain Federation has clubs in these states: Arizona (17), Arkansas (1), Colorado (20), Kansas (7), Nebraska (western portion of state) (1), New Mexico (7), Nevada (1), North Dakota (western portion of state)(1), Oklahoma (10), South Dakota (western portion of state) (1), Texas (1), Utah (7) and Wyoming (6).

TOPEKA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY HOSTS 60TH GEM AND MINERAL SHOW - BY RMFMS MEMBER BILL SMITH

The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society held its 60th Gem and Mineral show on October 15 and 16. in the Agricultural Hall, Kansas Expo Centre, Topeka KS. This was such a unique show I thought I would put it in our newsletter. These are some of the special show events:

1. They invited all 4-H youth throughout the state who are working on their Geology Project cases to enter their displays in a Geology Fair at the show. Entries came in from throughout the state and was a very impressive part of the show. Ribbons were awarded each display and a trophy given to the highest scoring case in each of the four divisions

which were 15, 30, 45 and 60 specimens . Janet and I are the project leaders for Barber County Geology and this was a perfect time to see how our displays showed against the rest of the counties. They had to excellent judges who were glad to explain any problems with a display. I was very impressed and I think they are going to do it again next year.

2. This was also their "Diamond Jubilee" and they had the Cardwell's from the Prospectors tv show. They gave very informative presentations each day.

3. They also had Mr. Kenneth Stalder who mapped the various layers under the surface of Kan-

sas and helped coordinate the layers with the same layers throughout Kansas and other states. To do this he had to know the minerals, rocks and fossils in each layer. He has become an expert in these areas and was able to answer all my questions.

4. They have an active Junior Rock Hound group who had a very large display area and talked to visitors about projects, badges, field trips, etc.

These are just some of the activities presented by the club. I was very impressed with the show and thanks to the Topeka club for all your work in making this a very successful show.

I was very impressed with the show and thanks to the Topeka club for all your work in making this a very successful show.

WHAT A HIKE! - BY RMFMS PRESIDENT BETH SIMMONS

Some made it over the boulder field covered with Yucca and Prickly Pear, to the site of the old prospect mine dump.... others didn't.

On October 29th, a beautiful sunny Colorado day, RMFMS Fluorescent and Mineral Tech Dr. Pete Modreski led a group of local rock hounds and mineral enthusiasts to a long-forgotten site just east of Idaho Springs, Colorado. What a hike it was! Some made it over the boulder field covered with Yucca and Prickly Pear, to the site of the old prospect mine dump.... others didn't. The site had yielded some double-terminated amethyst and a rare phosphate mineral, svanbergite, back in the 1980s. In addition to Pete, a number of RMFMS 2017 officers and committee chairs happened to come along - Beth Simmons (now RMFMS president), Kathy Honda (Colorado State Director), Linda Burns (Credentials Chairman), and Shain Diebold (Safety Chairman). Photos, taken by CSMS member Frank Rosenberg, include: Pete, the preacher?, Red-haired Shain, and a group photo that shows Beth Simmons in DGMG attire, Kathy Honda, and Linda Burns (center back), and a photo of the group that finally made it to the site. It's an unusual event that finds five RMFMS officers/committee chairs spontaneously sharing an activity! One hiker did find an amethyst crystal and Pete found a specimen of his rare svanbergite. The rest of us brought home left-over pizza from world-famous Beau Jo's!



Photos courtesy of Beth Simmons.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT ROCK CLUB? - BY RMFMS SECRETARY AND 2017 VICE PRESIDENT LIZ THOMAS

That is a million-dollar question. But I think if I reason this out, we might get a closer idea, or at least my idea of a great rock club.

I have been to a few rock club meetings outside of my own. I have heard many people say wonderful things about our club being a great club. I have seen just how great other clubs conduct themselves at meetings and at their shows and field trips. But I have also heard stories of not so good natured souls causing havoc in clubs that can and will cause the club to implode.

We all stand on the outside looking in and see all the good things that a club is doing and how well it looks to be working. But when we really examine the club we can see where we all need improvement. We do not want to think our club has faults, but we do. No club is immune to problems within themselves, so how do we make a club that is going through strife into a great club inside and out?

First we must examine where we are at fault. We have to recognize these for what they are. Then we all must come to an agreement that this can and will be fixed so that it is best for the entire club. I don't want to think I have faults but I do. And I sure don't want someone to tell me all my faults, but it must be done for me to be a better person. This is true for a great club. Ownership, that is what we call it. We must own our mistakes and fix them.

Second we must agree to disagree and then lay it down. If you can say yes I understand my idea is not the best for the club, I must accept it and not bring it up again to myself or others. Especially others because we get into spreading that awful thing, gossip. It will kill a group, friendship and a heart quicker than anything.

Third we must be willing to listen. This is a hard one if you are talking. Before we speak we must listen and then roll it around in our head and mull it over before we jump to conclusions that it is wrong. And like so many clubs, ours for sure, a lot of old time members live in the past and do not want to hear about progression. They want to say, before listening and understanding, "this is how we use to do it". Not the old way is always the best way. So think about all that is said. That brings up a good point. Don't listen to just part of the idea and deem it to be wrong or not good. Listen to all that is said and then after discussing it and thinking it over or even ask questions so that you can totally understand it, make your statement or judgment.

There are a lot of virtues that I think we should base our clubs on. A virtue is a trait or quality deemed to be morally good and thus is valued as a foundation of principle and good moral being. Personal virtues are characteristics valued as promoting collective and individual greatness.

Let's take a look at some virtues. I truly believe if we follow we just might make a club become a great club.

Prudence - the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason. Prudence to judge between actions with regard to appropriate actions at a given time; proper moderation between self-interest, versus public-interest, and against the rights and needs of others. We have people in the club that has no discipline. Example. When someone is speaking they talk throughout the talk. This is rude to the speaker and those around you that really wants to hear. Please show respect and take your conversation outside or

until after the meeting. And turn those dad gum cell phones off or on silent. If you must take a call, go out of the room.

Justice - conformity to truth, fact, or reason. Here again we have some in our club that only wants the truth and facts be on their terms. If you are truthful, within reason and know all the facts before reacting then you have nothing to worry about.

Temperance - the practice of always controlling your actions, thoughts, or feelings so that you do not boast, become too angry, or want it your way. Constant mindfulness of others and one's surroundings; practicing self-control, deferred gratification. Now this is a biggie. We have several in our club that cannot control their actions no matter what you say to them. They become angry without first listening to reason. They blurt out words that are mean, hurtful and wrong. I tend to put my foot in my mouth a lot and have to apologize. What would be best for me is to learn from my mistakes and don't do this. I am very thankful I have friends that will bring me down a peg and make me think about it and I then know where I was wrong. We have those that boast about their abilities, their collections or about raping the land and why it is okay to do this. Putting yourself on a pedestal is not only wrong it is so ugly in the eyes of everyone that is in the club and possible new members. We want to give our youth the abilities and desire to go out and be Rockhounds. Something that we can be proud we had a hand in. How can we do this if they see others in the club being so prideful and disrespectful? Pride comes when you receive a compliment from your peers when it is deserved. Re-

No club is immune to problems within themselves, so how do we make a club that is going through strife into a great club inside and out?

WHAT MAKES A GREAT ROCK CLUB? - CONTINUED

We can and never will be perfect ... however, we can be a work in progress.

spect comes from learning the rules and laws of our great club and land and someone takes notice.

Faith - strong belief or trust in someone or something. Trust is a strong word. Do we always trust? No, we tend to always question truth. But why do we question the trust in someone? We have people in the club that we do not trust. There has been something that has happened that has caused us to lose trust in someone. I really hate this one. I want to believe that I can trust all rock hounds but I have come to know that this is not always true. When I lose trust I lose faith in that person. Maybe there was a collection not reported and it was taken, maybe there are sales that was never spoken of and everyone missed out on them or maybe it is just a sense that it just does not feel right. How do we get this trust back? It is hard and for some it can never be fixed. But at least try to fix it. It may take a simple apology or reasoning. Or it may take years of showing that you are again trustworthy. But if you have faith then your heart will be good and your spirit will be lifted. You want all those inside and outside the club to believe you as honest, trustworthy and faithful.

Hope - to want something to happen or be true and think that it could happen or be true. Just like writing this, I hope and think this will be a good thing for all clubs. That the clubs will work on making their club a great club. A club with integrity, and honest virtues.

Charity - the organizations that help people in need. Self-sacrifice, compassion and friendship for its own sake; empathy and trust without prejudice or resentment. Unselfish love and voluntary kindness without bias or spite. Having positive outlooks and cheerful demeanor; to inspire kindness in others. They say charity needs to happen at home

first. How true this is when it comes to the clubs? We need to be giving of our time, our materials, our love of rocks, our information with an open heart. They always say you can't take it with you when you're gone. I know this to be true. We have a lot of donations from people that has had collections that belonged to their parents or family members and they do not want it. I wanted to touch on this one because of donations. Our donations chairman is a very honest soul and will do his utmost best to make sure the donation goes to the best place for the club to benefit the most. We must trust this person to look out for not only the club but the donation and show respect for those who gave. Giving of our time is a hard one. I know within my own house it is hard to give time because of illness, but I will give as much time as I can. They say that only 10% of the people will do 100% of the work and this is very true in our club and I know this is true in a lot of clubs. This is not fair for those 90% to not do anything. Many could sack up rocks for the grab bags, many could work the show at the information booth, grab bags or spinning wheel for an hour. Many could bring snacks to the meetings, many could give talks at the meetings over their experiences as a rock hound. Many could volunteer to lead a field trip. There are lots of things that we all could do. We need to help each other. At the show this year I saw some that came, did their thing then got out of there as fast as they could. This is hard work and we need people to help set up and take down. It is hard on our backs or legs, getting old is not for sissy's. But we have jobs that can be done sitting. If you go to several shows like we do, take a look around.

Each year we see the same faces doing the same jobs. They love it but every now and then they sure could use a bathroom break. So no excuses.

Humility - is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less. It is a spirit of self-examination; a hermeneutic of suspicion toward yourself and charity toward people you disagree with. Modest behavior, selflessness, and the giving of respect. The courage of the heart necessary to undertake tasks which are difficult, tedious or unglamorous, and to graciously accept the sacrifices involved. Reverence for those who have wisdom and those who selflessly teach. Giving credit where credit is due; not unfairly glorifying one's own self. Being faithful to promises, no matter how big or small they may be. If we all practice this within our clubs just think how wonderful it would be on the inside and be true to those looking from the outside.

Integrity - is the quality of being honest and fair. The state of being complete or whole. You should have a firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values. I hope I always strive to have integrity within my personal life and I am hoping that all rock clubs work on having a great deal of integrity.

Now do I practice all of these? No, I am however very honest and I can make a promise. I will be working on myself and my club to practice all this and pray that we become a great club again. We are not a bad club and on a scale of 1 to 10 I will would be happy to put us at a 7. To always be a 10 means you can never improve. If we cannot improve then we are not learning, so strive to be that 9. Like me, the club needs a little work. We can and never will be perfect. However, we can be a work in progress.

These are only my opinions and not written about anyone or any club.



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