



# Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

February 2025

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## About Us

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth Science, rocks and minerals, fossils, lapidary work, jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs.

The Club normally meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Charter School gym, located on the south side of US Highway 24 approaching the town of Lake George from Florissant. A link to a map of the meeting location is provided on the sidebar under "Contact Us. Between Oct – Mar, our meetings start at 10 AM. From Apr-Sep, our meetings start earlier, 9 AM, to allow for more time for any subsequent field trips.

## Club Officers

2025 introduces a new face to our club management team. Please welcome our new Field Trip Coordinator, Corey Miller. Following are the LGGMC Officers for 2025. Please reach out if you need any help.

<b>President</b>	Dave Bruess	<a href="mailto:david@bruess.me">david@bruess.me</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Bart Zobel	<a href="mailto:bezobel@gmail.com">bezobel@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Steve Kahler	<a href="mailto:pipprophet@gmail.com">pipprophet@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Vogl	<a href="mailto:bigmabe@hotmail.com">bigmabe@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Betty Bowles	<a href="mailto:bbowles2@gmail.com">bbowles2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Field Trip Coordinator</b>	Corey Miller	<a href="mailto:corythevaulter@gmail.com">corythevaulter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Show Coordinator</b>	Carol Kinate	<a href="mailto:kinatec@aol.com">kinatec@aol.com</a>

## ---Contact Us---

### Postal Address:

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club  
PO Box 171  
Lake George, CO 80827

### Website:

[LGGMC website](#)  
[LGGMC on Facebook](#)

### Meeting Location:

Lake George Charter School  
38874 Hwy 24  
Lake George, CO 80827

[Map to Lake George Community Center](#)

[Map to Lake George Charter School](#)

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## To Join Our Club – ( 2025 Annual Membership Applications are being accepted through March )

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Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We gather monthly as a club to share information including guest speaker presentations, workshops, and rock specimen show and tell discussions. We coordinate and supervise amazing field trips for club members that cover a broad spectrum of geological, archeological, rock, and mineral interests. We also sponsor the annual Gem and Mineral Show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, or jewelry.

### Annual Membership

Current year membership application and/or renewal occurs only during **January 1-March 31, 2025**. Membership for 2025 is closed after this time. Last year's membership list will be purged on April 1. Please note that all memberships must be current in order to participate on any field trip or to use any club claim.

### How to Apply

The quickest and easiest way for one to join our club is online. Visit [OUR CLUB WEBSITE](#) and follow the "Register" option. If you are already registered and want to pay your membership dues online for 2025, follow the "Login" option. If you have any difficulties with verifying your payment, please contact us.

One may also apply for membership in person at our monthly meetings or by mailing in the application and fee. The application can be downloaded in PDF format from [HERE](#). The application will need to be filled out and submitted to the club along with the appropriate membership dues. The mailing address to submit the application is provided in the newsletter sidebar, ---**Contact Us**--- under **Postal Address**. Remember to get your application in before April 1, 2025!

### Annual Membership Fee

Annual membership dues are collected (Jan. 1 through are as follows:

LGGMC Annual Membership Dues 2024		
\$15.00	Individual	Age 18 and over
\$25.00	Family	Parents + kids under age 18

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## Look Forward to Our Next Meeting (10 AM Feb 8, 2025 @ Lake George Charter School)

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### **First, Summary of January Meeting**

Our January 11 meeting started the new year with a discussion of issues when trying to pay membership dues online. Dave Bruess has since made updates to the website to help make the payment process easier to follow. If anyone has questions about their payment, please [CONTACT US](#) and we will make sure things are worked out.

Afterwards, Betty Bowles gave a presentation of her visit in the Lower Caucasus Mountains in the countries of Armenia and Georgia. She shared her experiences learning about the history and people of this far region of the world as well her experiences exploring the geological volcanic history of the region.

She also shared specimens of rocks collected there. One of the most unique specimens was a form of volcanic glass called moonstone. It is similar to obsidian, but is aqua blue in color. If you would like to learn more about moonstones, [TRY THIS LINK](#) from Geologyscience.



1 Moonstone from Lake Sevan, Armenia

## February 2025 Meeting

For our February meeting, we will be focusing on field trips for the upcoming season. We will be entertaining new field trip ideas to add to our regular spectacular outings. As a club, we are interested

in providing excursions that pique the interests of our membership. So come and join us in the discussion with ideas for your rock hounding bucket list.

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## Upcoming Events

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### Scholarship Opportunity 2025 (Apply Jan-Mar 2025)

This opportunity for a \$1000.00 scholarship is offered by the Hell Creek Paleontological Society. It is designed to support individuals pursuing their education in paleontology, geology, or relate fields. For more information visit [SCHOLARSHIP PAGE HERE](#).

### Fire Prevention at Home (Jan 25, 2025)

Florissant Public Library 334 Circle Dr, Florissant, CO 80816  
The free informational sessions give insight into reasons why some homes survived and others burned in recent fires like the

Marshall fire. The session also presents many ideas to make homes safer in case of wildfires.

### Tucson Gem & Fine Mineral Show 2025 (Jan 31 – Feb 15, 2025)

Crystal Classics was able to acquire one of the most celebrated and visited gold collections in the world, the Kirby Siber Worldwide Gold Collection. This gold collection consists of 18 different display cabinets showing gold specimens, of all varieties, from all around the world. Nugget gold, wire gold, crystalized gold and MORE!! In this [VIDEO DOCUMENTARY HERE](#), you'll get a sneak peek at some of the truly outstanding gold specimens that will be on display at Tucson Fine Mineral Gallery.

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## Meet Our Neighbors

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Here is a list of nearby gem, mineral, fossil, and geology club meetings that you may enjoy. Go to each club's website for more information.

### Cañon City Geology Club

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6PM at United Methodist Church, Cañon City.

### Pueblo Rockhounds

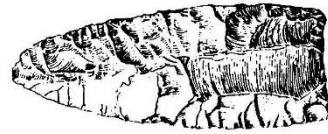
Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30PM at Westminster Presb. Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo

### Columbine Gem & Mineral Society

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:30PM at meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16<sup>th</sup>, Salida

### Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7PM Colorado Springs Christian School, 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs.



## Clovis Once Upon the Land

Day dawns  
Morning brings  
An Ice Age breeze

Glaciers retreat  
Pathways open  
To an ice-free corridor

Distant ice  
Endless views  
Earth beneath the sky

Early migrants  
Ancient hunters  
Spread across the land

Mysterious Clovis  
Journey far  
Intrepid people

Spreading east  
Some go south  
Prospering across the land

Mother mammoth  
Baby follows  
Herds upon the meadow

Mammoths graze  
Others drink  
Soon to drift away

Distinctive points  
Superior work  
Made of jasper or of chert

Quartzite cores  
Chipping blanks  
Make deadly edges

Quiet stalking  
Lethal spear  
Hunters make their play

Thrusting spear  
Penetrating power  
Delivers lethal blow

Scraping hides  
Roasting meat  
Over glowing embers

Thankful hunters  
Ritual offerings  
A shaman dances

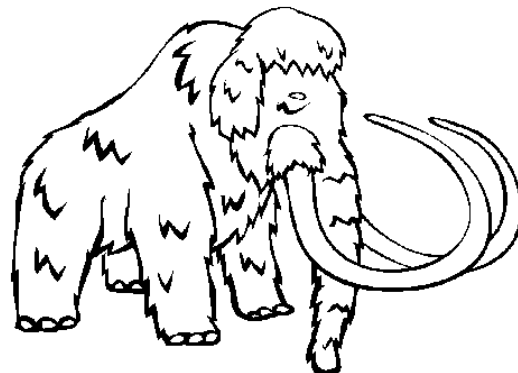
Itinerant camps  
Family clans  
Move across the land

Centuries pass  
Clovis vanish  
No longer anywhere

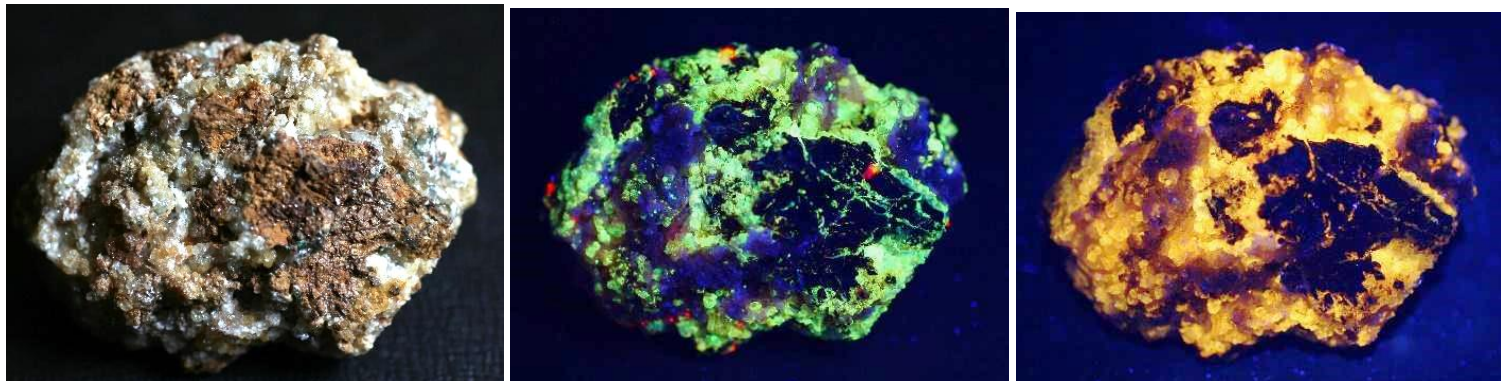
Working trowel  
Sifting tray  
Excavate a buried site

Material remains  
Revealing secrets  
To learn about their ways

*By Steven Wade Veatch*



Monthly Mineral for February, 2025 (Carnein photos and collection)



Here's a specimen of a mineral many of you have seen—you may even have a piece in your collection. This particular sample came from a nearby Colorado locality, but I'll bet you have never collected it there yourself. The green fluorescence in SWUV, shown in the middle photo, is very typical; the yellow fluorescence in LWUV (right photo) is more common in specimens from the western US than in the most famous locality, which is in NJ. This mineral typically occurs in zinc deposits, either as a (rare) primary constituent or as a (common) secondary product of oxidation of sphalerite (as in this case). Its hardness is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  and SG is around 4. Crystals are trigonal (they have a vertical 3-fold symmetry axis). Mindat.org lists many localities worldwide, only 8 of which are in Colorado. What is this fluorescent zinc mineral?

**Last Month's Mineral: Chrysoberyl,  $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$**

One of the most valuable of gemstones, this relatively rare mineral occurs in some pegmatites, as well as in placers, thanks to its high hardness and above-average SG. The variety *alexandrite* is noted for its color change under different lighting conditions; *cymophane* displays a cats-eye effect (thanks to clouds of needle-like inclusions). Chrysoberyl is orthorhombic, but cyclic twins like the one here, consisting of 3 intergrown crystals, look hexagonal. Gemstones are generally small; on Gemdat.org (accessed January, 2025), the average size of illustrated stone is just 1.66 carats, and the largest is just over 14

carats. Mindat.org (accessed January, 2025) lists many localities world-wide, including 15 in Colorado. The nearest are in Park and Jefferson counties.



## Interesting Reads

In this section, we provide unique submissions from our club members and fun rock, mineral, and geology news and information to enjoy from several of our favorite magazines.



### Las Choyas Geodes 101

Las Choyas geodes are popular, attainable and collectible geodes for enthusiasts. Known as "Mexican Coconuts," they are found north and east of Chihuahua City.

[Read More](#)

### Trancas Geodes with Crystals



Trancas geodes also known as "Chihuahua geodes" were discovered in 1971. Their druzy quartz centers make them a beautiful addition to a collection.

[Read More](#)

### Keokuk Geodes & Pseudocubic Quartz



Learn about Keokuk geodes and an unusual type of mineralization in a small percentage with the innermost crystal layer and interpenetrating quartz crystals.

[Read More](#)

### Geode Guys: A Passion for Geodes



The Geode Guys is a business with a love for rocks, minerals, and the magic they hold. They remind us of the thrill of a cracked geode and a family legacy.

[Read More](#)



### Hallelujah Junction Mine: Quartz is King

Hallelujah Junction Mine on the border of California and Nevada features abundant pockets of smoky quartz, amethyst, and citrine, which are often found as large scepters.

[Read More](#)

### Quartz Varieties & Forms: On the Rocks



Quartz varieties are numerous forming hexagonal prisms that are attractive and common. We use it for everything from making concrete to creating fine jewelry.

[Read More](#)

### What is Silicon Dioxide? More Than Quartz



Silicon dioxide is a term often used interchangeably with quartz. While much of the vast amount of silicon dioxide within the Earth's crust is quartz, not all of it falls into that category.

[Read More](#)

----- From our members -----

### Dike of Jurassic Orbicular Granite near Caldera in Chile

from Wayne Orlovski

The dike below intruded an older tonalite. [ORBICULES](#) nucleated during rapid cooling. Note the comb layering between the intrusion and host rock.

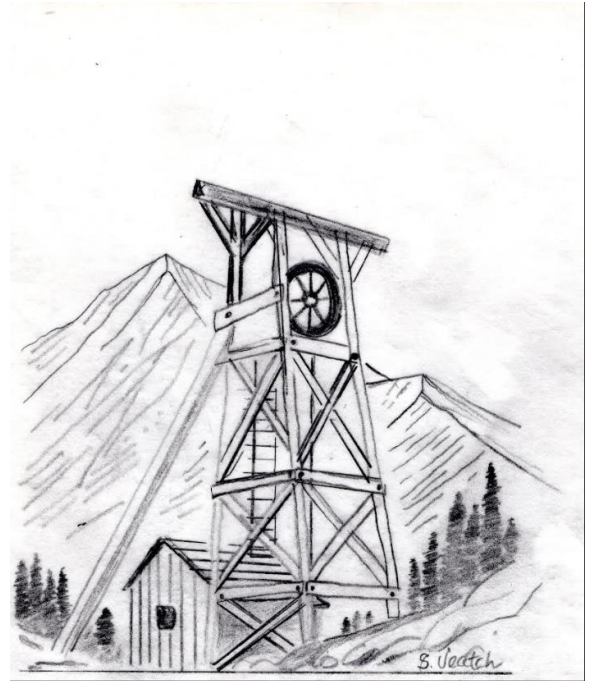


Here is an amazing countertop slab. It is a “boudinaged” beauty. Who wants this one for their kitchen? No scale is shown, but it is about 2 m tall. [HERE](#) is a link to a simple explanation of the process of boudinage (making sausages.)



### Headframe at CO Gold Mine

- drawing by Steven Veatch



A headframe is the structure above an underground mine shaft, built for hoisting machines, people, and materials.

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## Book Review: Wicked Cripple Creek District - by Jan MacKell Collins

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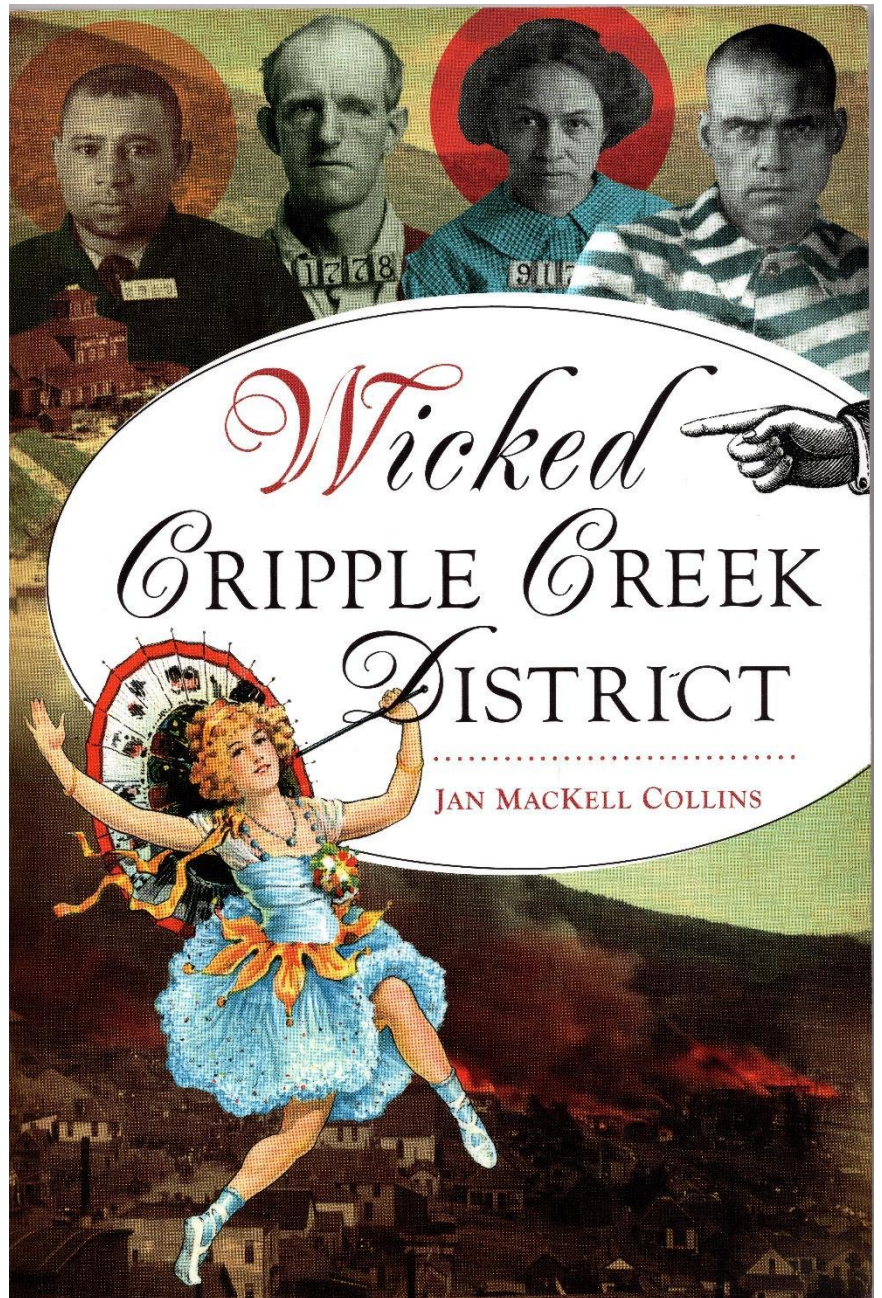
History Press: Charleston, SC. 2024. 176 pages with black and white photographs. Paperback.

### Book Review by Steven Wade Veatch

There are dozens upon dozens of histories written about Colorado's most famous mining district, Cripple Creek. What sets MacKell Collins' *Wicked Cripple Creek District* apart from the others is that it pulls back the curtain on the scandalous and shadowy history of the district. Collins masterfully describes, in richly detailed storytelling, the Cripple Creek district's wicked ways, recounting the lives of its infamous inhabitants: saloon keepers whose establishments pulsed with raucous music, miners whose days were filled with the clang of picks and the scent of dynamite, brothel madams whose hushed whispers held secrets, gamblers whose fortunes rose and fell with the roll of the dice, conmen whose slick words could charm any victim, and lawmen whose badges couldn't always keep the peace in the ever-expanding gold rush of Cripple Creek and the other towns of the district.

The book examines Cripple Creek's wild side and delves into the district's dark past, including crime, exploitation, and the hardships of living in a gold camp. Yet, the author also points out the tenacity and drive of those who came to Cripple Creek to pursue riches and independence. Balancing historical accuracy and storytelling skill, her writing creates an engaging book for everyone, from history enthusiasts to casual readers.

What sets this book apart is Collins' ability to weave a tapestry of little-known stories from this period. Using firsthand accounts, historical records, newspaper clippings, and historic photos she intensely portrays the district's darker side. The bittersweet tales of hardship and loss woven into the author's narratives are a poignant reminder of lives lived on the edge. She directly addresses the racy tales and complex lives of the women in the mining camps' red-light districts.



Central to the *Wicked Cripple Creek District*'s appeal is its focus on the human stories that make up its historical foundation. A saloon in Cripple Creek was the scene of the town's first murder in 1892 - and this was only the town's second year. Following an argument in the Iron Clad Dance Hall, Charles Hudspeth took a shot at the bartender but missed. Unfortunately, the shot hit and killed the piano player instead. By then shadows clung to the corners of the district's streets, where danger whispered from the dance halls, saloons, and brothels that lined them. More mayhem and murders followed. The Victor Hotel was the scene of a robbery in 1894, just months after it opened. The fatal shooting of railroad superintendent, Richard Newell, stemmed from a heated construction right-of-way dispute.

In 1896, a quarrel broke out between Otto Floto and Jennie Larue who was a prostitute living in the cramped confines of a second-floor apartment in Cripple Creek's Central Dance Hall. A fire broke out in their apartment, spread, and burned part of downtown Cripple Creek. Three years later (1899), Jennie Thompson was cleaning a garment with gasoline in the Victor shack she lived in. Her careless smoking ignited the fumes, resulting in a fire that ravaged a section of Victor.

Collins describes the sad story of Mexican Jennie and how her abusive blacksmith husband, Philip Roberts Jr., filled her life with the constant sounds of his rage, while he browbeat fear into her heart until she reached her breaking point. Then, on Christmas night, 1913, inside the walls of their Poverty Gulch shack, she shot Roberts dead. The cold steel of her gun was a stark contrast to the festive season. Collins includes a photograph of the quilt Jennie painstakingly sewed in prison—a visual autobiography stitched with love, loss, and hope. The quilt was a testament to her spirit: each square a memory, each stitch a story.

A more unusual story recounts how the miner John McEachern plotted to defraud insurance companies and fake his own death in a mining accident. To perpetrate his scam, he used the corpse of Bob Speed (which would eventually be buried three times) as a substitute for his body.

Jan MacKell Collins has meticulously researched and vividly written this new account of the Cripple Creek mining district. Her account brings its wicked inhabitants to life and preserves their stories so that the reader can almost smell the perfume of the district's love workers, see the gamblers' sly faces as they bet, and hear the honkytonk saloon music play. *Wicked Cripple Creek District* is a must-read for anyone interested in Colorado mining history and the wicked side of a mining district. Collins brings to life the bright dance halls and shadowed alleyways, capturing the spirit of a time and place where fortunes were made and lives unraveled.

**Rating:** 4.8/5 prospector picks

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## Call for Volunteers: Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)

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Club's,

Please look around your club to see if any of these jobs would match up with one of your members. Better yet, send it out to all your members. Who knows, maybe one is just waiting on a job to do. We really need your help with this.

It is important that we try to have a full set of officers and committees so the Rocky Mountain Federation can run at its highest standards of commitment to the clubs. To do this, we need volunteers to step up and take some positions.

I have added what we need and what the job duty entails. As far as the technical committees, might get one phone call a year to answer a question. The Public Relations will need to do a bit more. Writing reports for the newsletter is one great way to get information for each club. Webmaster will be the hardest job. Maintaining the website and keeping it updated is very important but one big necessity for us is to keep every club informed of everything. The State Director is a great job because you get to communicate with each club in your state. Keeping them updated and informed of everything withing the Federation. As well as helping them with shows if they need you.

All these jobs are very fulfilling as someone who has held many jobs within the federation, I can tell you it is a blessing to see all the good you can do. If you would like one of these positions the please reach out to our current president, Jim Gray at 307-260-6442 or [jimgray@wyoming.com](mailto:jimgray@wyoming.com). If you have any question, he can answer them for you or you can always reach out to me at Liz Thomas, [mygemsrock@gmail.com](mailto:mygemsrock@gmail.com).

Thank you

Liz Thomas

RMFMS Secretary

### **Fluorescent Technical**

This committee will:

1. Furnish the Newsletter Editor for publication in the RMFMS Newsletter pertinent fluorescent mineralogy information of benefit and interest to the collector and exhibitor.
2. Prepare information and suggestions on labeling, grouping, classifying, and care and cleaning of fluorescent mineral specimens for home and show display.
3. Cooperate, work with, and study the report of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.
4. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Fluorescent Mineralogy Technical Committees or fluorescent mineralogy study groups in their own organizations.
5. Encourage club committees and individual club members to submit questions and information they have relative to correct names, identification, and care of fluorescent mineral specimens.

### **Fossil Technical**

This committee will:

1. Furnish to the Newsletter Editor for publication in the RMFMS Newsletter pertinent information on paleontology and fossils of benefit and interest to the collector and exhibitor.
2. Prepare information and suggestions on labeling, identifying, classifying, and care and cleaning of fossil specimens for home and show display.

3. Cooperate, work with, and study the report of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.
4. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Fossil Technical Committees or fossil study groups in their own organizations.
5. Encourage club committees and individual club members to submit questions and information they have relative to correct names, identification, and care of fossil specimens.

### **Lapidary Technical**

This committee will:

1. Furnish the RMFMS Newsletter Editor pertinent lapidary information of benefit and interest to the lapidarist and exhibitor.
2. Prepare information and suggestions on lapidary techniques, labeling and care and cleaning of materials for home and show display.
3. Be knowledgeable about the report of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.
4. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Lapidary Technical Committees or lapidary groups in their own organizations.
5. Encourage club committees and individual club members to submit questions and information they have relative to lapidary techniques, correct names, care and upkeep of equipment, and care of lapidary creations.

### **Mineral Technical**

This committee will:

1. Furnish the Newsletter Editor pertinent mineralogical information of benefit and interest to the collector. Such information may include suggested club programs that will encourage usage of correct mineral names and assistance in determining proper identification of minerals.
2. Prepare information and suggestions on labeling, grouping, classifying, and care and cleaning of mineral specimens.
3. Work with the Nomenclature Subcommittee of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee in providing ways and means to inform club members and dealers who engage in the sale of minerals in the usage of correct mineral names and in the proper procedure for naming new minerals.
4. Study the report of the Nomenclature Subcommittee of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee and make such pertinent information available to all clubs of the RMFMS.
5. Encourage and assist member clubs to activate Mineralogy Technical Committees in their own organizations.
6. Encourage club members and committees to submit questions and information related to correct names, identification, and care of mineral specimens.

### **Public Relations Committee**

The duties of the Committee shall be:

1. Encourage affiliated societies to have a Public Relations Chair who will assist the society in planning the yearly program and activities that will include opportunities for increased publicity, promote better understanding of the hobby, and help promote club activities within their communities.
2. Provide the RMFMS Newsletter Editor with articles designed to lead clubs in developing various ways they can better utilize the members and activities in their clubs to gain a better image in the community.
3. Stay in touch with AFMS and other regional Federations and affiliated societies to gather relevant materials on the activities the society could utilize to enhance their image with the public.

4. Interact with other Public Relations Committees in the AFMS and other regional federations and affiliated societies by exchanging ideas and information.

5. Report each year to the Delegates Meeting the various activities that represent the best of public relations activities of member clubs, with the intent of giving clubs a better idea of what can be done to promote their clubs in their communities.

### **Webmaster**

Duties of the RMFMS Webmaster include:

1. Communication with RMFMS Member clubs and RMFMS Officers to obtain input and feedback on the operation of the website.
2. Develop and maintain the site in a pleasing, easy to navigate presentation.
3. Post and update relevant information as it become available.
4. Follow RMFMS Operating Procedures for posting articles and information and obtain approval from the RMFMS Executive Board prior to posting any questionable information.
5. Maintain a connection to the AFMS website through interaction with the AFMS and other Federation of Mineralogical Societies Webmasters.
6. Work (within a committee, when necessary) to develop ways to further utilize the website for maximum benefit of the RMFMS and its membership.
7. Pay or make arrangements for the RMFMS Treasurer to pay any fees and/or expenses necessary for maintaining the website on the Internet.
8. Submit a budget request to the RMFMS Treasurer for the following fiscal year.
9. Send receipts for expenditures to the RMFMS Treasurer for reimbursement

### **Webmaster Contest Chair.**

The RMFMS Website Contest is held yearly, and awards are presented at the RMFMS Convention. The contest is open to all current RMFMS clubs. The contest follows the AFMS website contest guidelines, using entry forms and scoresheets developed by the AFMS

### **Website Contest Chair.**

RMFMS clubs are sent an email from the Webmaster Contest Chair with guidelines, entry forms and scoresheets attached for the contest. This notice is usually sent two months before the entry deadline. After the entry deadline, each entry is sent to two judges selected from other regional Federations.

### **State Directors (For Colorado Only)**

Each State Director shall:

1. Serve as liaisons between all member clubs in their district and the Executive Committee.
2. Render all possible services and assistance to member clubs.
3. Encourage all district clubs to publish a newsletter and have a website.
4. Assist member clubs with local, state, and Federation shows.
5. Maintain close contact by letter, electronic communication, or personal visit, if possible, with member clubs.
6. Promote Federation activities and programs to member clubs and individuals.
7. Prior to the Annual Convention, encourage each member club to have club Delegates attend the House of Delegates meeting. If no club member can attend, help arrange a Proxy so the club will be represented, and a quorum will be present to conduct business at the House of Delegates meeting.