



# Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Show 2010

The Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Show 2010 was held at the fairgrounds in Powell, WY. June 19 & 20, on Father's Day weekend. There were many other activities in the area competing for attendance that weekend. About 300 people attended. Locating the show in two buildings created a problem with people coming in the back door and by-passing the registration table. In spite of this, most who attended considered it a first-class show.

Many members of other clubs from across the state helped wherever needed. Jane Neale of the Shoshone Rock Club said, "The show would not have been possible without the extra help from the other clubs."

The display cases were all exceptional and very close to judge. The People's Choice Award (a traveling

trophy where the winner is selected by public vote) went to the Cody 59'ers Rock Club. Competition ribbons for display cases were awarded to: Club - Riverton Mineral and Gem Society (display case done by Lettie and Richard Heumier), Lapidary—Gary Olson, Rocks and Minerals—Lynn Neale, Educational—Richard and Lettie Heumier, Fossils—Richard and Lettie Heumier.

There were no dealers in competition, but a special ribbon award was presented to Nick Stover (Will Guthrie's grandson). Nick stepped up to display his "neat stuff" and filled Cary Arner's table as Cary was ill and couldn't participate.

Many persons commented that this was a first-class show. Our thanks to all who helped make it that way.

—Jane R. Neale



James Platt (left) and Stan Strike of the Cody 59'ers



The People's Choice award winning case by the Cody 59'ers

## Rockhound of the Year 2010—Lettie Heumier

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Lettie Heumier was awarded Rockhound of the Year by the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society. She was given the award at the 2010 State Show in Powell. Connie Case, WSM&GS President, presented a certificate and a copy of the letter at right.

Jane Neale, WSM&GS Treasurer, designed, made and presented a silver medallion to Lettie.

Lettie is well known throughout the rockhounding community in the State of Wyoming as she has been devoted to rockhounding most of her life. Lettie is a member of most of the rock clubs in the state and is a willing volunteer at any rock shows that need her. Lettie has been collecting rocks and minerals since she was eight years old.

Lettie and her son Richard regularly host classes for the area elementary schools in her home and private museum in Torrington. They also pack up their samples and displays and go into classrooms to teach kids about rocks, minerals and gemstones.



Above, Jane Neale presented a silver medallion that she designed and cast. The medallion commemorates the 2010 Rockhound of the Year award. It is made of sterling silver and includes a piece of Wyoming Jade.

## Rockhound of the Year 2010

Wyoming State Geological Survey  
April 27, 2010

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society  
Connie Case, President  
807 Rose Marie Drive  
Riverton, WY 82501  
Ph 307-857-6173  
Email [thecases@bresnan.net](mailto:thecases@bresnan.net)

Dear Connie,

Wow! The WSM&GS counts among its member clubs some of the finest rockhounds in the world! I knew this to be true, but seeing many of the details in writing is humbling.

I reviewed all of the nominations for the WSM&GS Rockhound of the Year for 2010, and found that making that selection was difficult indeed. All of the nominees appeared highly qualified for the award, and each one should consider their nomination alone as an honor. There were eight nominations, two of which were for one individual. The nominees in alphabetical order were:

Cary Arner  
Linna Beebe  
Lettie Heumier  
Robert Kope  
Mary Ann Northrup  
Jackie Platt  
Jim Ulmer

Those who submitted these nominations, but did not have their nominee selected should seriously consider resubmitting them again next year, and possibly adding subtle details that might tip the scale in favor of their candidate.

The true gem, whose sparkle radiated above the others to be my selection for the 2010 WSM&GS Rockhound of the Year is LETTIE HEUMIER... congratulations!



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## Shoshone Rock Club

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Two members of the Shoshone Rock Club collaborated with Powell Valley Community Education and presented a free public program entitled “Backyard Geology”. The program was conducted at Northwest College on September 16. Mary Ann Northrup and Jane Neale presented the program and were pleased to learn that this was the best attended class of the many Community Ed classes offered. Several people from the class came to the next rock club meeting. The newspaper article announcing the class said, “Presenters Jane Neale and Mary Ann Northrup will guide attendees to a deeper understanding of the wonders of fossils, rocks, and rock formations of our own backyards and the Big Horn Basin.”

Several members helped the Boys and Girls Club make ornaments for the White House Christmas tree on two different occasions.

The club donated funds to assist a two year old cancer victim. One of the club members challenged the club by promising to match the club’s donation if the club would increase its donation. The club did vote to increase its donation and two hundred dollars was sent to the little girl.

At the October 15 meeting, Members brought in samples of WY banded iron, rough and slabs, and a belt buckle of banded iron, made by Lynn Neale, was admired by all.

Mary Ann Northrup gave an interesting program on Banded Iron as written in the weekly magazine, *Science News*, by Sid Perkins, issue June 20, 2009. *Iron is a gift from above. It's atoms were forged by nuclear reactions inside massive stars that exploded, seeding our galactic neighborhood with the raw materials for planets over billions of years before the solar system formed.* Banded Iron Formations, or BIF's, are among the Earth's oldest rocks, dating back from the late Archean eon ending around 2.5 billions years and the early part of the Proterozoic eon. The BIF's are named for the layers of iron that alternate with layers of little iron. Iron, by weight, mostly hidden in the Earth's core, is the Earth's most abundant element. Less than 6% of the Earth's crust is iron, but the element is very plentiful in oxide-rich ore deposits. Why did the oxide mineral accumulated in the BIF's contain about 20 times as much oxygen as today's atmosphere? These deposits were accumulated before the Earth's atmosphere was thoroughly oxygenated. Other baffling questions concern the banding of iron with jasper and chert, and deposits that spread for kilometers. Find out about new research studies, and the general debate by scientists, the Great Oxidation Event, the switch from a mostly methane or carbon dioxide atmosphere to an oxygen-rich environment. Mary Ann says she enjoys this magazine and receives it weekly for a subscription price of around \$50.00 per year. Usually an article on fossils is included in each issue. To get a subscription go to [www.sciencenews.org](http://www.sciencenews.org).

—Linna Beebe

Editor’s Note:

There are science news magazines available online for free. Here are two:

New Scientist at <http://www.newscientist.com/>

Science Daily News at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

## Blue Forest trip May 27-31, 2010

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The field trip to the Blue Forest was productive and windy.

The Federation was there. There must have been close to one hundred people at the dig site. I think almost everybody found some wood. The picnic Saturday night had good food and I met people from Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, and Utah. I learned about some geodes near Jackpot, Nevada from a person from Oregon.

Here are some pictures.

You needed to keep your buckets full of rocks so they wouldn't blow away.

—Richard Rodgers, Riverton



# Historian's Report

Richard Heumier, Historian

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Hello fellow Rockologists,

I have the pleasure of reporting on the WSM&GS State Rock Show by hosts Shoshone Rock Club (Powell) on June 20 & 21, 2010. Because I am also a member of the Powell club, I worked throughout the show from setup on Friday to teardown on Sunday.

I did manage to get away to attend the State meeting on Saturday, June 20 from 10:30—12:00 a.m. The State President, Connie Case, presided over the meeting. The accomplishments were:

1. The State Society's Constitution was legalized, but not changed, by the signatures of the State Board and each of the State Club's Delegates.
2. It was decided to proceed with efforts to acquire a 501c3 number from the IRS for the WSM&GS.

There was a presentation of the "Rockhound of the Year" award to a surprised Letty Heumier. Other business included a future fund raiser, discussion about joining the Rocky Mtn. Federation, and a State Show Resource Manual.

The State show had the best showcases I have had the honor of seeing for the past number of years. 'Way to go' to all who took the extra time to help with the State's motto: to teach, learn, and share. These showcases really showed that. Many honors should go to Jane Neale and Mary Ann Northrup, co-chairpeople of the Show. These two have done the State Show many times in the past and are top-notch in putting on a show. Everyone could learn a thing or two from these two dedicated Rockologists.

I have accomplished filing many pictures and documents into the State archives from the Cheyenne, Casper, and State rock shows. The Shoshone Rock Club (sent by Jane Neale) has produced a folder of the newspaper clippings, pictures, and events. I copied them, made up a new folder, filed them, and will be returning the original folder back to the Shoshone Rock Club for their archives. *Way to go SRC!* The rest of the clubs should take note and make an effort to report something. The JSN Editor, Gene Case and I stay in close contact and both of us are willing to pass on or share our news with everyone. Please report.

Since taking this office, I have been gathering club records from various people around the state. I have taken these boxes and started filing them into manila folders. I filed these records under club names and/or yearly files. Under the yearly files, I am compiling a list of State Officers, Club Officers, and the list of State Shows, Show Chairpersons, and Delegates. The records I have filed go back to the 1950's. Recently I was in Newcastle and inquired about the local non-existing club called the *Cambria RAMS (Rocks and Minerals Society)*. Newcastle's museum only had a small paragraph of mention in one of their records. It seems that all the old members have moved away or are deceased and no one knows of any records of this rock club. Sadness!?!

The Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society has very little records, because they have not had a secretary for the past eight years and their Secretary records have disappeared. I did manage to acquire some records from their Treasurer, Carroll Schell and their Vice President, George Durako. Thank You wonderful people. I shot a few pictures of their annual show held on May 15 and 16, recorded, and filed them under their club name.

The Casper show was held on May 20 and 30 (Memorial Day weekend). I had a great visit with their Show Chairperson and Vice President, Randy Sternburg. I also shot a few pictures, recorded, and filed them under their club name. They had a very nice show, held at the fairgrounds, in a fairly large room, with room for

## Historian's Report Continued

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expansion. There are rumors that Casper is going to hold two shows a year in the future to help with funding their clubhouse. More power to the Natrona County Rockhounds!

It seems that I must be pulling perfectly good teeth because the report from all the clubs just don't make my address or desk. Honestly folks, I'm not going to pull teeth, but I would like to hear from you. Expect a letter in the future and please respond.

I have gained a lot of knowledge from the past Historian records and thoroughly enjoyed my position as Historian. Thanks for your help.

Richard Heumier

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Riverton, WY 82501

### 59'rs Rock Club—Cody

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We're alive and kicking after five decades! This group has survived, prospered, and is still a vital and active group after many rock clubs in the state have disappeared.

Our slate of officers remain the same as last year.

The 59'rs club will be hosting the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Show next July with the help of the Shoshone Rock Club in Powell. The club is currently organizing and working on this project. The theme for the 2011 show will be *The Wyoming Antique Rock Show*.

There were six "formal" rock trips this summer and others that were "spur of the moment" outings. Anyone interested in joining an outing is welcome to come along.

We continue to have programs at most of our meetings and added three new members to our club in May.

—Valerie Flanagan

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### Rocks on the web —

If you have access to the internet, there are many websites devoted to rocks, minerals, fossils and geology. Here are a few:

Scott Luers of the Riverton club has a fine site devoted to WY rockhounding at

<http://sites.google.com/site/wyomingrockhound/home/>

Fine Mineral Specimens at <http://www.wilenskyminerals.com>

Great freeform cabs at <http://samsilverhawk.com/gems1.html>

## Cheyenne Rock Club—

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Last weekend (May 15 & 16) was our mineral club's mineral show. Over the past 5 years our show has steadily grown, but this year's show was "off the chart."

We more than doubled the amount of money we made over last year. WOW !

Our attendance went over 1,000 for the first time. Cheyenne has a population of 53,000 people and there are not nearby towns. Our silent auction set a record by clearing \$1,500.

People had a fun time. It was a great show and it will be hard to top next year.

Each year we make about 200 grab bags (Small cloth bags containing 10 different rock, minerals and fossils which we sell for \$1) and last year we had 7 left over. This year we sold all 200 the FIRST day. It is a 2-day show.

We gave away 275 22" by 43" dinosaur posters.

This was our 2nd year for our seconder's dinosaur coloring contest. We sent out 1,000 (That's one for each second grader in Cheyenne) entry forms and only got 15 entries. They had to color a preprinted dinosaur and add in a background. I don't know if we will run that contest next year.

We did much better than ever before and we don't know why. Our advertising was the same as last year. Maybe the show is gaining a good reputation. It is a mystery.

Bob King - Cheyenne



Quinn Charles Hatton

Don't forget to take the grand-kids out rock-hounding with you.

They can be the best part of the trip (but you already know that).



Darien Marie Hatton



## Natrona County Rockhounds—

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*Natrona County Rockhounds Club Presents*

### **The 64th Annual Gem & Mineral Show**

June 11 & 12, 2011

355 W. Yellowstone Hwy.

(Yellowstone Garage)

Casper, WY

\$3.00 Entry Fee, Kids under 12 free

Raffle of 15 lb. tumbler and more: grab bags, silent auction of rocks, demonstrations,  
Dealers of fine jewelry, beads, fossils and rocks.

Contacts: Randy Sternberg 307-234-6156 or Helen Hoff 307-266-2839



Members of the Natrona County Rockhounds working and teaching in their clubhouse.

“There is some dispute, er discussion, in our club right now about kids in the machinery areas- "totally NOT" versus "with supervision" which of course will come to a head if you publish the kid photos. Not to worry, we will get it hashed out. I thought they made better pictures.”

—Helen Hoff

## More from Riverton—

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Information on trips I lead or assisted this summer:

5/29- Blue Forest, Richard Rogers was the trip leader, left with a group on Thursday and I brought the rest of the group down on Friday the 29th. It was a hot windy day and the digging was rock hard. I found out that I can locate petrified wood with divining rods. I located two to dig on Saturday and cleaned up for the picnic get-together, met many interesting people, was irritated by the hundreds of motorcycles and ATV's screaming around and raising dust. I called my wife and found I had a cow and calf in trouble, so did not spend the night.

7/31- Wiggins Fork- Looking for wood. Had 15 vehicles, some from the Powell area. Beautiful scenery, beautiful weather..fell into the river, found some small wood. Those who were hardy enough to hike in 3-4 miles found 30-40 pounds of nice wood. Everyone had a ball!

8/21-22- Delaney Rim- For those who were there both days, they found all the turrutilla, petrified algae, oolite that they wanted to haul. A few found some beautiful, perfect spematilites. Everyone was satisfied with the trip.

Sincerely,

—  
BJ Struempf, Riverton

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This is a photo of Devil's Gate on the Sweetwater River. It has been "fooled with" in the computer to reveal The Devil as he stands guard.

—Editor

## More winners from the state show—



**Gary Olson won the Lapidary Award**



**Jim McGarvey won the flag raffle**

### **WYOMING STATE MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY**

President—Connie Case  
Vice President—Jim McGarvey  
Secretary—Mary Ann Northrup  
Treasurer—Jane Neale  
Historian—Richard Heumier  
RMFMS State Director—Jim McGarvey  
Jade State News Editor—Gene Case

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*The purpose of the Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society is to help provide a social framework to promote popular interest in education in the various earth sciences such as geology, mineralogy, paleontology, and related subjects. Members of the Society are dues-paying rock clubs within the boundaries of the State of Wyoming.*

**[wystatemineralandgemsociety.com](http://wystatemineralandgemsociety.com)**