

Jade State News

Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

Award-Winning WSMGS Website: wsmgs.org

Volume 2023, Issue # 2

May 2023



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The WSMGS conducts meetings quarterly and as special events require.

Wyoming Jade

Wyoming Is Home to One of The Largest And Purest Troves of Jade in the World

By Wendy Corr
Cowboy State Daily
March 11, 2023
Reprinted with permission

Dave Frietag's backyard near Lander is not landscaped in typical fashion.

Rather than trees and grass, Frietag has rows and rows of rocks. And not just any rocks, but boulders containing jade, a precious gemstone that is found throughout the Wyoming landscape, particularly in the central part of the state.

"Wyoming jade is unlike any other jade in the world," Frietag told Cowboy State Daily. "In fact, every other jade in the world is compared to Wyoming jade, because we have so many different

flavors here of such great quality."

Wyoming's state gemstone is nephrite jade, which is considered high quality and durable, and is relatively abundant in the Cowboy State. Colors can range



A jade slick owned by Ken Rhoads of Lander.
Photo courtesy Cowboy State Daily

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Wyoming Jade

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from white to black, but various shades of green are most common.

Quality of Wyoming Jade

Freitag explained that jade is graded in varying degrees of quality.

“There’s 95% junk jade, we’ll call it medium to low grade,” he said. “And there’s only that upper echelon, or 5%, that is the quality jade that they like to make jewelry out of and other things.”

But Freitag said that around 1% of the jade recovered from the Wyoming desert is the highest and rarest quality, worth thousands of dollars per pound.

“That’s the uncut, unhammered specimen that somebody found on the ground,” he said. “And through time – they didn’t cut it, they didn’t polish it, they just put it on the shelf

and left it alone – some of these specimens now are going for \$1,000 to \$2,000 a pound simply because you can’t find them.”

Wyoming Jade vs. The World

There are two types of jade that occur in nature — nephrite jade, which is found in Wyoming, and jadeite, which is only native to Myanmar.

Because of this, jadeite is considered more valuable (more valuable than gold, in some cases), but Wyoming apple-green nephrite jade is known around the world to be some of the finest in existence.

When it comes to determining the value of Wyoming jade, however, the market is vague. There isn’t a comparison gauge, no “jade index” like there is for gold, because of the variations in jade types.

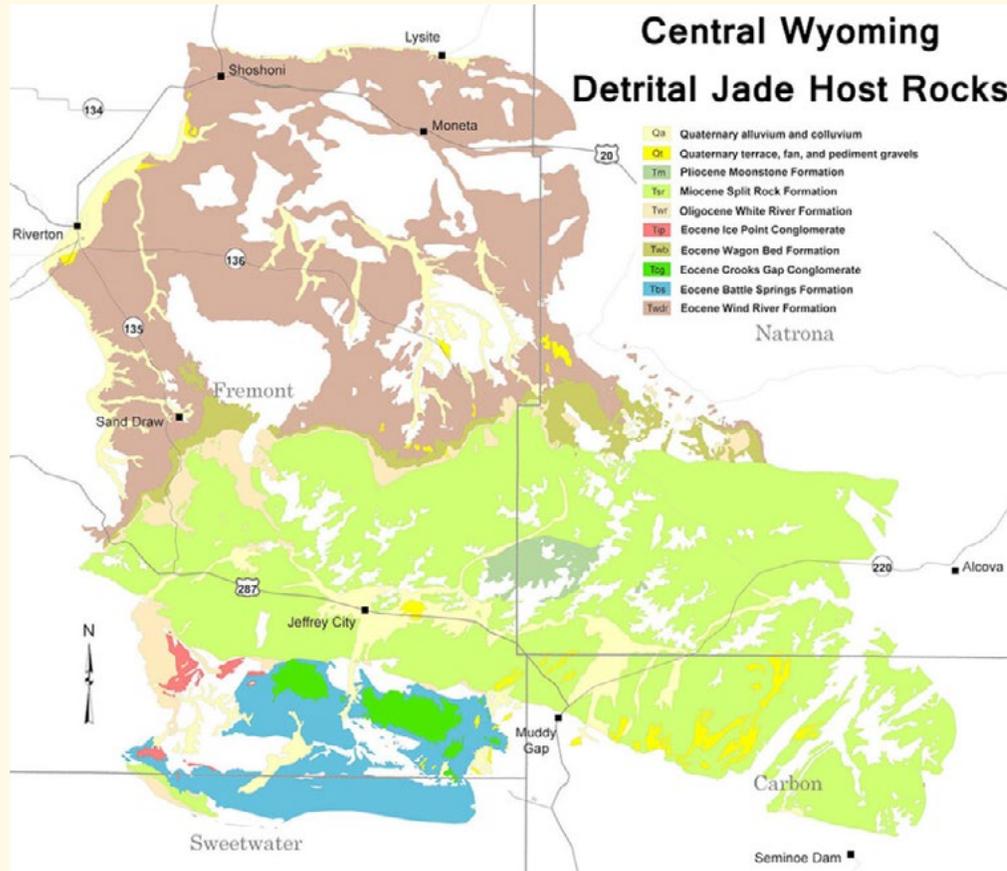
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Dave Freitag of Lander stands next to a huge jade boulder. Photo courtesy of the Cowboy State Daily

Wyoming Jade

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This graphic illustrates where host rocks occur in the areas where nephrite jade is found in central Wyoming. Courtesy Wyoming State Geological Survey

Unique Jewelry

Freitag said Wyoming jade is considered an “amphibole” mineral, which means it’s a fibrous rock similar to asbestos that’s easily carved for jewelry and other artistic designs.

“Literally, you can carve jade down to a needle point, and the needle won’t fall off,” said Freitag.

Freitag pointed out that despite its carvability, jade is not soft. It is actually one of the hardest fibrous rocks in nature.

“Because of its interlocking fibers, it’s literally bulletproof,” he said.

Ken Rhoads, a jeweler in Lander who specializes in jade, said the stone registers as a 6.5 on the Mohs Hardness Scale, meaning it is about as resistant to scratches and abrasions as a steel nail

(for reference, diamonds register a 10, while fluorite or apatite register 4 and 5, respectively).

Family Tradition

Jade hunting is a family tradition for Rhoads.

His grandparents, Bert and Verla, were the first settlers in the area to find and identify the semi-precious stones and spent hundreds of hours in the 1930s and ’40s scouring the prairie in search of the green gems.

“When I came to work with my father (in the 1970s), we marketed (jade jewelry) in the Rocky Mountain area,” Rhoads told Cowboy State Daily. “I was a traveling salesman for him, and I’d come home on the weekends, and we’d make the stuff up and send it back

out again.”

Rhoads said while he was working with his father in the 1970s, jade was in such high demand that they couldn’t keep up.

“It was all we could do to fill those orders,” he said. “And we pretty well quit hunting jade. My grandmother had some claims filed out there in Jeffrey City, and we quit jade just to take care of the business.” As popular as jade hunting was in decades past, Rhoads said interest in the jade trade is on the decline.

“Like, my generation is interested in the old cars of the old days and the newer generations aren’t,” he said. “I mean, it was there, and then it wasn’t so much.”

However, there are still treasures to be found. Freitag said one of his prized possessions is a 195-pound boulder that his wife found when the pair were out hiking north of Jeffrey City.

“It was in a sand dune, and the sand had blown off the top just a little bit, uncovering maybe only a half inch where you see a little window, maybe 6 inches long,” Freitag recalled.

The two dug out the boulder, which measured roughly 18 inches by 18 inches by 1 foot, but they weren’t able to lift it out themselves then.

“We had to come back another day with some friends, and it took three of us to pick it up and put it in the back of the pickup truck,” he said.

That boulder has a home now in Freitag’s backyard, along with nearly 30 pallets filled with more jade specimens and other kinds of rocks.

This summer, the second annual Wyoming Jade Festival will take place Aug. 11-13 in Jeffrey City, which is in the center of Wyoming’s jade fields.

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A Tree Through Time

Essay by Steven Wade Veatch

From Pick & Pack, October 2022

*Reprinted from the A.F.M.S. Newsletter,
April 2023*

Thirty-four million years ago on a dismal Eocene afternoon near present-day Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in central Colorado, woodland creatures fled as the ground shook from a fiery power held deep within the Earth. This dark force manifested on the surface, where toxic gases, ash, and molten rock shot through open vents —filling the air. A red glow painted the sky as cinders rained down through the smoky, sulfurous air onto the landscape. Flows of searing lava, which can reach 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, oozed from volcanic vents, burning everything in their path.

Following this concentrated chaos, hot ash and mud raced down the slopes of several volcanoes. Swirling mud flows pulled in surface materials, knocked down and carried small trees with their root wads, and then surrounded the bases of towering redwood trees. After frequent periods of active eruptions, the volcanic complex ultimately quieted down to dormancy and peaceable extinction. The mud that encased the bases of the redwoods enabled the slow petrification process to begin. The wayward mudflow also dammed a prehistoric stream and quickly formed a lake. Plants, insects, and other organisms were trapped in the lake sediments. As time passed, the lake sediments turned into shale containing fossils of these organisms.

Today, enormous redwoods grow at their ecological limit in a narrow zone

along the California and Oregon coasts. Redwoods still exist at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, but only as fossil leaves, cones, or petrified stumps. It would be impossible for redwoods to grow today in Florissant's cool, temperate highland climate. Redwoods reached towering heights



A living ponderosa pine tree grows from an ancient redwood that has turned to stone. Photo date 2013 by S. W. Veatch.

in Florissant's Eocene past, when the climate was warm and temperate.

There is a remarkable site at the monument where a singular fossil redwood stump endures despite the unavoidable and inexorable power of erosion and weathering. This petrified redwood base is unique among the others: It has a ponderosa pine tree growing from its stone center. I have always been spellbound by this juxtaposed image — the prehistoric stone stump with a living ponderosa

tree growing out of it.

I wanted to look at it again and make a deeper connection with this geological marvel.

As I walked on a trail to its location, Pikes Peak loomed in the distance. I passed a long, low, grass-covered meadow bounded by treed hills. A green swath of lichen-capped rocks fringed the trail. As I neared the scene I sensed a weight to the afternoon: windy weather brought a grey, clouded sky that rolled over the land. The warm, heavy smell of rain soon rose from the wet and glistening forest floor. Glittering drops of water rested on leaves. The wind began to whistle through the trees while flowers of sky; blue flax nodded. As the rainclouds broke up, an elk wandered this high stretch of land while a coyote trotted by.

When I reached the fossil redwood, I sat down on a bench to soak in the experience. As I looked at this remarkable remnant of a primeval redwood I noticed patches of soft, velvety, emerald green moss gripping sections of the petrified stump. There are small forest sounds: a bird chirps in the distance while a chickadee croons



A blue flax blossom at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Photo date 2003 by S. W. Veatch.

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A Tree Through Time

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a love song from a place deeper than daydreams. A jay scolds me from the safety of a high branch overhead. There are little rustlings in a tree behind me where a black, tufted eared Abert's squirrel worries a pinecone. These sights, sounds, and smells make me content, and mark this natural place as special.

* * *

Fossils are the letters that form words in a geologic story. Together, these words complete the pages of the area's paleontological record: messages from a distant time telling a story of plants and animals that once lived here and are now gone.



Big Stump. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Photo date 2020 by S. W. Veatch.

The pages document the broader climate and the ecosystem it supported. Most importantly, these intimate histories — written in stone — yield a narrative of how an ecosystem responds to climate change.

The Eocene marks the start of a gradual global cooling.

The secrets of deep time are exposed in fossils on pine covered hills and grassy meadows of Florissant. At the Florissant Fossil Beds lie some of the world's richest fossil deposits, remnants of life ranging in size from a tiny grain of pollen to massive redwood trees. Time is no longer the trickster under Florissant's vast summer sky; instead, time is captured as a memory in each fossil and is brought forward to the present, where these vital fossils reveal a primeval Eocene ecosystem. I immersed myself in its story.

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Raffle Drawing Will Benefit AFMS Endowment Fund

by **Richard Jaeger**

I am the Rocky Mountain Federation Regional Chairman for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Cheryl Neary, a member of the Eastern Federation, is the AFMS Endowment Fund Chair and the AFMS Central Office Administrator.

Basically, this is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the NFMS/AFMS Convention in Billings, Montana in August.

People from around the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies donate prizes for the raffle, which may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items, each valued from \$75 to \$200. The drawing is handled so there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations; last year we had five winners from the Rocky Mountain Federation. We usually have about three or four winners from the RMFMS.

As items are donated, pictures of them will appear in the AFMS Newsletter and on the American Federation Website, www.amsfed.org.

There are usually around 30 items. This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Currently the funds go towards the Junior Rockhound Program, Judges Training, and preparing Programs for distribution to Regional Federations (programs that can be used by individual clubs). Over \$5,000 was raised last year.

Purchasing the tickets: Cheryl requests that your checks for tickets be sent to the regional chairs (for RMFMS, send to Richard Jaeger, 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137) so we can issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS Endowment Fund." We then forward those checks to Pat LaRue, the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and get the tickets to the NFMS/AFMS Show in Billings in August to be put into the RMFMS bag. There will be at least one general prize ticket, maybe two or three, drawn from each of the bags for the

seven regional federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.

I hope that many of you will participate and hopefully be winners in Billings. You need not be present to win.

I would also be happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle or they can be sent directly to Cheryl Neary; the more prizes, the more winners, and hopefully, more money raised. Cheryl's address is: 42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772. My wife and I are each donating a piece of jewelry for Endowment Fund prizes. My contact information is provided below. Please share this information with your club members and thanks for your consideration.

Please purchase some tickets — and hopefully get your ticket drawn in Billings in August.

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What's the Deal with Record Keepers?

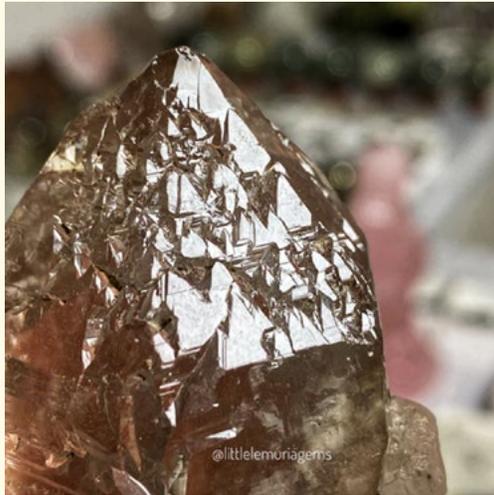
By Jessica

Littlemuriat.com, August, 2021

Reprinted with permission

It's time to dust of the ol' blog, and what better topic than our namesake, the mysterious record keeper, aka TRIGON. This has been a much requested and long-awaited topic for me to cover. I often answer questions in our live sales on Instagram about their formation and, in our experience, these little triangles are the most sought-after characteristic of quartz. So...what's all the fuss about? Are they truly rare? Why are some raised and some recessed, some pointing up and some pointing down? What makes them so mysterious and inviting to mystics and mineral collectors alike? Hopefully after diving into this blog you will have more answers than you ever had questions about record keepers.

Let's first visit what raised record



Photos courtesy of littlemuriagems

keepers are NOT. They are not a form of etching, although they are often associated with etched crystals. Record keepers may commonly form on a crystal that has been etched, but that does not mean they were formed by the same process as the etching. Record keepers are also not necessarily a defect in the crystal (but this is debatable). They are in

fact part of the normal growth process of several different minerals including but not exclusive to quartz.

A crystal can form from a liquid, a gas, the contact of a liquid with a solid, the contact of a gas with a solid, the contact of a liquid with a gas, the mixing of liquids, or the mixing of gases. That's a wide range of possibilities! The



pressure, temperature, and chemistry, of these interactions will begin changing as soon as crystal formation begins. On the contrary, crystal formation will stop when a change in temperature, pressure, or chemistry favors a different reaction (or no reaction). If the environment is right, the atoms of the crystal can favor rejoining the liquid rather than staying bound to the crystal lattice.

Halite, as an example, also known as sodium chloride or rock salt, demonstrates this phenomenon rapidly. When placed in a liquid solution of water, the atoms immediately begin dissolving from the crystal and into the liquid. This is one process that is referred to by mineral enthusiasts as etching. In the interest of being complete, there is another process referred to as etching in the industry that involves using specific chemicals to dissolve away specific minerals. Hydrofluoric acid, as



Photos courtesy of littlemuriagems

an example, will artificially etch calcite almost instantly but has no etching effect on fluorite. But for our purposes, only natural processes will be referenced.

One more bit of defining before we jump into the heart of this topic. In theory, the dissolution of quartz occurs in nature when the pH, organic acids, temperature, and a few other over my head processes all work in conjunction to pull silica away from the formed crystal. From the published articles I have read in scientific journals, there is no clear explanation for the kinetics behind naturally "etched" quartz. In the words of my good friend and geologist Fred Krone, "(etching) is a very complex and dynamic system". This is how I will be approaching the topic of record keepers. There are many strong theories, but no holy grail explanation. It is too complex and dynamic to nail down in 1000 words or less.

First, I want to give a visual representation of what might be referred to as a record keeper. In the example on the next page, the rhombohedral faces of the crystal appear shrunk, duplicated, and stacked on the termination of the crystal. While this looks like, and certainly could be considered a record keeper, this crystal growth habit is defined as Artichoke Quartz. A member of the sprouting quartz family, this record keeper like pattern is created when rapid growth and impurities in the lattice create lattice defects. The impurities are organized within the crystal lattice in such a way that the faces have the look of relatively organized triangles. Not

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What's the Deal with Record Keepers?

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Photos courtesy of littlemuriagems

skeletal, not elstial, but in a category of their own.

Next, let's define "trigon" markings. This is another metaphysical buzz word, but for our purposes let's stick to the facts. Trigon literally means triangle.

It's not a fancy mineral term, it's not exclusive to record keepers, and one dictionary even calls it "an archaic word for triangle." It is safe to say that there is no difference between a record keeper or a trigon marking other than the metaphysical differentiation between the two words.

There are upside down recessed trigons, right side up raised trigons with bowed sides, and there are some stones that seem to have some combination of



both features. It is important to note that none of these are exclusive to quartz. Trigons can be seen on spodumene, pyrite, ruby, and several other minerals. Record keepers likely represent an interruption in the platy hexagonal crystal lattice structure during crystal formation. This interruption cuts the hexagonal features in half to trigonal, changing the number of sides from 6 to 3. Microscopic analyses should be considered to determine if the record keepers are truly triangles or have truncated edges. Also, a full inventory of all crystals exhibiting trigonal record keeper features should be completed to



validate this theory.

Whether the record keeper is an 'inny' or an 'outy' has to do with how the interruption in crystal formation occurs. There are so many forces interacting in infinite interchanging ways during crystal formation — a slight shift in one will have an influence on everything else. There also may be an external cause, such as the dimensions of the crystal pocket.

Crystals that have broken during the process of formation and had time to heal (like the one above) will exhibit many record keeper like shapes as it begins to construct a termination over the broken surface. This is what's referred to as "healing" or a "healed crystal". Oddly enough, this term does



not have its roots in the metaphysical crystal healing community. In the case of healed crystals, the triangles over the surface represent a break in the parent crystal that is then used as a catalyst by residual or subsequent fluid or gas to recrystallize.

I sincerely hope I have shed some level of light on what a record keeper is and how they might be formed. This was one of the most complex blogs I have ever taken on and coming to the end is very rewarding. There is more room to expand into the realms of dissolution quartz and growth interference quartz and for sure more about healing...but for now, take some time to digest and hunt for record keepers in your collection.

Special thanks to Fred Krone at Northern Maine Minerals for helping me work through my questions ... no matter how long it takes.



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Rockhound Crafts — Let's Bring More of Them Back!

By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

From the A.F.M.S. Newsletter, May 2023

Part of my job description as historian is to keep an eye out for ideas from our past that might be beneficial for our societies and club members today. One area I have admired about the history of AFMS-affiliated rockhounds is the creativity in the lapidary arts and crafts.

The first society I belonged to kept binders full of all the various craft tutorials with photos found in the old lapidary magazines. They did this so their club members could look through the binders to find new things they'd like to make. I loved looking at these.

Whenever I am at a society show, I like going through the stacks of these old magazines to see what I might be missing in my personal collection of lapidary craft ideas. I have noticed for quite some time now that it seems like there are not as many people having fun working on the many crafts of our past. These crafts can still be wonderful and inspiring today. I have often wondered why this is. I would love to see

the enthusiasm come back for the crafts aspect of our hobby.

One of the ways to draw in new members is to show off what you can teach people to make. Bring back those wonderful crafts and display them in exhibits at your shows. Think about creating a program for your society's library of the various lapidary arts and crafts. You can enter a program like this in your Regional Federation New Programs contest, where it may advance to the AFMS New Programs contest.

If all we have are the memories of what we personally have made, and we don't try to pass our skills to new members and the incoming new generations of rockhounds, our hobby will forget some of those treasured skills.

Probably many of your societies have collections of the older craft tutorials from the heyday when the lapidary arts and crafts ideas were bustling. Find them and archive them before the old pages fade away. I recommend making the effort to scan them.

Let's create a new heyday for lapidary arts and crafts. It will be easy to do, and we'll have a lot of fun, too.

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Practicing Public Relations All Year Long

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations Chair

Condensed from the A.F.M.S. Newsletter, May 2023

In future articles, I'll turn to our current media age and the need to fully embrace social media in pursuing effective public relations campaigns. But this month, I'll return to a "blast-from-the-past" and embrace Francis Sick's advice from the "old school" days. Fran was our AFMS Public Relations Chair from 2007 to 2011, and she was our last PR Chair to religiously provide advice within these pages. I encourage you to read her super- helpful columns in our AFMS Newsletter archives at <https://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>.

Fran suggested more than a decade ago that we need to practice public relations all year long: As she said, "One weekend a year doesn't do it." Public relations needs to be an ongoing, all-year process. As Fran wrote back in 2008, "successful clubs are doing everything they can to make themselves known and appreciated in their communities. They make use of any public forum available to them."

Do you have someone in your club enlisted to find out about the deadline and where to send info about an upcoming

club meeting, tailgate, field trip, show, or other event. Then you send a simple announcement that often involves no more than a sentence or two. This is easy "old school" stuff that all too many clubs neglect.

As Fran wrote back in 2009, "Give more detailed information about what we offer. Don't just advertise the club show. Make all your club events sound so exciting that people can't wait to come. ... Whatever your club is doing that you love, others will love as well if only they know enough about it to encourage them to come in the first place."

I invite your ideas, large and small, on how your club or regional federation defines PR and what you do to implement all that's associated with that definition. Please send your thoughts to me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577.

I look forward to receiving suggestions, reflections, and ideas from those who matter most, namely, you! Whether a blast-from-the-past or an idea that will lead us into the future, your thoughts and suggestions are needed and welcomed!

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2023 Rock Shows

Take a look at the fabulous
rock shows coming up!

RMFMS & WSMGS

HOSTED BY

NATRONA COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS CLUB
75TH ANNUAL ROCK SHOW

July 14-16, 2023

Fri & Sat 9-5 • Sun 9-4

Actual
Raffle
Item



75th Annual

Admission \$3
under 12 free

Ramkota

Hotel

800 N Poplar
Casper WY

Raffle: Amethyst Cathedral, hunk of Wyoming Jade, and much more

Silent Auctions: WY rocks in the rough

Door Prizes

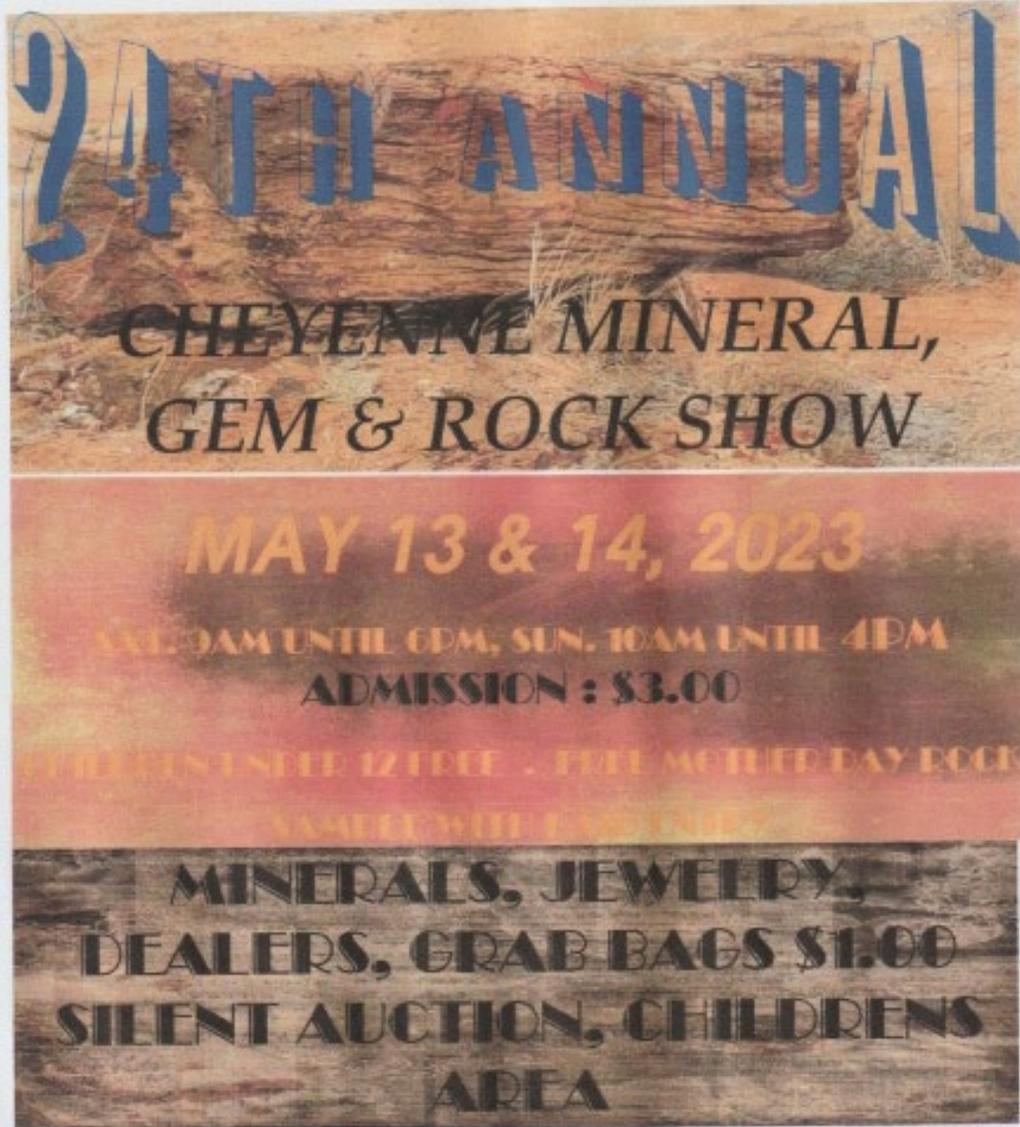
Demonstrations: Cabbing Demonstration by Lapidary Gary

Contact: Mac Goss 307.439.9873 macogre13@yahoo.com

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Rock Show Flyers

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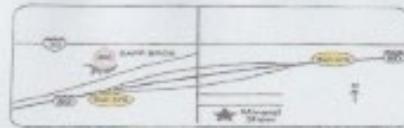
SHOW INFORMATION

JAN SHIVELY

509-953-0634

HOSTED BY CHEYENNE

MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY



Archer Complex - Building 36
Just South of Exit #370 on I-80
6 mi. East of Cheyenne

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Rock Show Flyers

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The Sublette County Rock Hounds *present*

GEM & MINERAL

SHOW

June 16 – 18, 2023

Sublette County Fairgrounds

Event Center
10937 Hwy 189

Big Piney - Marbleton, Wyoming

VENDORS: rough rock, slabs, cabs, specimens, fossils, jade, opal, jewelry, beads, jewelry making supplies & MORE

DEMONSTRATORS: Knapping, wire wrapping, silversmithing, faceting, cabbing, sphere making, fossil preparation

EXHIBITS: specimens, education, fluorescent rocks, rock identification

ACTIVITIES: Mr. Bones dinosaur puppeteer, find a rock, fluorescent rock hunting, wheel of fortune, & more!

FIELD TRIPS: fossil fish, petrified wood, stromatolite, agates, jaspers

FOOD CONCESSIONS ON-SITE

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Rock Show Flyers

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2023 Big Horn Basin ROCK AND MINERAL SHOW

4-8 p.m. Friday,
August 11

August 11-12

9-5 on Saturday,
August 12

Park County Fairgrounds

\$3 Admission for
Adults and Teens

**Heart Mountain Building
Powell, Wyoming**

Kids 12 and Under
Admitted for Free

- **Vendors:**
Rocks, Slabs, Minerals,
Knives, Arrowheads,
Jewelry, Cabochons,
Fossils, Beads and More!
- **Rock Identification**
- **Kids' Activities**
- **Raffle Prizes**



Malachite Specimen
Raffle Prize



5 inches by 3 inches



- **Demonstrations:**
Lapidary, Knapping,
UV Fluorescent Rocks,
Wire Wrapping and More!
- **Educational Displays**
- **Silent Auction**
- **Door Prizes**
- **Food Trucks**



Hosted by the Shoshone Rock Club of Powell and the Cody 59ers Rock Club

Contacts: gilbertc@tctwest.net • lapidarygary2@gmail.com • wyojones@wyojones.com

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Club News



Sublette County Rock Hounds

SCRH Field Trip: Rock Hunting in Utah

By Jim Gray
SCRH President

Sublette County Rock Hounds met with Mark and Ken of the Rock Dreams mine on Friday, April 28, outside of Milford, Utah, to collect Milford Opal. Milford Opal includes Bubble Opal, Rock Candy Opal, Wildfire Opal and Autumn Sunset Opal.

Thirty SCRH members made the journey south to participate in this adventure.

The rewards were immense! Each rockhound found many nice pieces of opal that day with help from Mark and Ken who excavated new material before the rockhounds arrived. There was surface collecting and digging going on, and no one went away disappointed.

The Sublette County Rock Hounds

send a big thank you to Mark and Ken for facilitating a great day!

Rock Dreams is a Utah mining company owned by Mark and Pam Marriott. They conduct fee-dig field trips by appointment to the mine site, and they sell their rocks and products at many retail shows in the region.

They have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wildfirebubbleopalclaim/, with more information.

Sublette County Rock Hounds continued their adventure in Utah the following day by visiting the Frisco mine site, located 15 miles West of Milford, Newhouse mine site, and an area near Crystal Peak in Beaver

County. The weather was beautiful, and club members enjoyed the time they spent together.



Center left: Margaret Sanders shows off the 'find of the Day' at the Frisco Mine Site west of Milford, Utah. Photo by Leane Gray

Above: Picture of the claim. Photo by Jim Gray

Left: Sublette County Rock Hounds on the field trip. Photo by the claim owner



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Club News

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Cody 59ers Rock Club

Cody, Wyoming

Cody 59ers have enjoyed two field trips already this spring. A rock-hunting excursion to the Red Pryor foothills on April 29 yielded a day in the sun, some good rocks and a chance to gain knowledge about the area.

Fifty members of the Cody 59ers Rock Club joined the field trip near the Wyoming/Montana border on April 29, and the club signed up five new members during the event.

The field trip was organized by Club President Greg Jones and led by Mike Neville. Mike is a historian and a retired

teacher, and attendees benefitted from his knowledge of the history of the people and archaeology of the area.

“He really ties the country together with the people who have lived here, from Native Americans up to today,” said Club Secretary Nella Flurkey.

Greg, a geologist, helped field-trippers identify the rocks they found. They included lots of red and yellow jasper, colored chert, flint, a few agates, and some fossils: brachiopods, horn corals, and tabular corals (syringopora).



Spring wildflowers added extra touches of beauty to the field trip in the Red Pryor foothills. Photo by Kandee Jane Lake



A historic Crow Indian pictograph depicts a Tobacco Woman on the left and a man on the right. Photo by Nella Flurkey



Field trip leader Mike Neville points out areas and things of interest during a visit to the Red Pryor foothills near the Wyoming/Montana border in April. Photo by Greg Jones



Enthusiastic rock hunters climb a mountainside. Photo by Nella Flurkey



Fifty members of the Cody 59ers Rock Club gather for a field trip to the Red Pryor foothills near the Wyoming/Montana border in April. Photo by Greg Jones

(Club News continued on Page 15)

Club News

(Continued from Page 14)

Cody Rock Club (continued)



The Cody 59ers give monthly presentations about rocks at the Cody Senior Center. The April program was about crystals, and club members brought crystals from their collections for display. Photos by Mike Motsch



We're looking for news from your club!

Is your rock club doing fun things?

Do you have a story you'd like to share?

Know someone who would make a great Rockhound Spotlight?

Send stories and photos to jsn@wsmsg.org!

Please send club news, photos, Rockhound Spotlights, and obituaries for the next issue of Jade State News by August 1, 2023.

(Club News continued on Page 16)

Club News

(Continued from Page 15)

Shoshone Rock Club

Powell, Wyoming

Greg Jones gave a presentation about mineral identification at the Shoshone Rock Club's May meeting.

Greg is a professional geologist. His knowledge about rock identification makes him a highly-sought-after member during meetings and field trips.

He explained ways that people can often use to determine what kind of minerals they have. Field identification techniques he outlined include:

- Color
- Streak (what color of streak a mineral leaves when scratched on a black or white porcelain tile)
- Luster
- Hardness

- Crystal Habit
 - Cleavage (how it naturally breaks apart — not the same as fracture)
 - Diaphaneity (transparency)
- After explaining the generalities of each technique, he demonstrated each technique with mineral samples.

Greg also explained other more-advanced techniques for testing a mineral's properties, such as dripping a diluted acid on it to see if it bubbles, or using a water displacement method to determine the mineral's (approximate) specific gravity.

After that informative presentation, club members look forward to Greg's next presentation on rock identification.



Greg Jones uses selenite to illustrate the diaphaneity (translucence) of a mineral. JSN photos by Ilene Olson



Greg Jones explained techniques that can be used to identify minerals during the May meeting of the Shoshone Rock Club in Powell. Greg is a professional geologist.



Mohs Hardness Scale			
	Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
↑ Increasing Hardness	Diamond	10	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
	Corundum	9	Steel Nail (6.5)
	Topaz	8	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
	Quartz	7	Copper Penny (3.5)
	Orthoclase	6	Fingernail (2.5)
	Apatite	5	
	Fluorite	4	
	Calcite	3	
	Gypsum	2	
	Talc	1	

Above: Streak and hardness are two of the properties that can help identify a mineral.

[Back to Page 1](#) 

WSMGS Rock Clubs

Riverton Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 1904
 Riverton, WY 82501
 rivertonmgs@wsmgs.org
 www.RivertonMGS.com

Meets 2nd Mon. 7 p.m.
 (Jan.-May, Aug.-Nov.)
 Senior Center, 303 E. Lincoln, Riverton

President: Stan Grove
 Vice-President: Molly Fauth
 Treasurer: Al Zelnak
 Secretary: Holly Skinner
 JSN Open
 Historian..... Open
 Field Trips Ted Knowles

Cody 59ers Rock Club

P.O. Box 1251
 Cody WY 82414
 cody59ers@wsmgs.org
 www.Cody59ers.com

Meets 4th Thursday (Sept-May) 6:30 p.m.
 Park County Library, Grizzly Room

President: Greg Jones
 Vice-President: ... Stephanie Melbraaten
 Treasurer: Aubrey Smith
 Secretary Nella Flurkey
 Historian: Stan Strike
 Field Trips Greg Jones

Shoshone Rock Club

P.O. Box 256,
 Powell, WY 82435
 shoshonerockclub@wsmgs.org

Meets 2nd Tuesday 7 p.m.
 Powell Library Meeting Room
 317 E. Third St., Powell

President: Gary Olson
 Vice-President: Elyse Lynn
 Treasurer: Lara Myers
 Secretary: Charis Cervantes
 JSN: Ilene Olson
 Historian: Linda Jennings
 Field Trips: Dorine Strom

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society

P.O. Box 21412
 Cheyenne, WY 82003
 cheyennemgs@wsmgs.org

Meet 2nd Wed. 7 p.m. (August-May)
 IBEW Union Building
 810 Fremont Street-Cheyenne

President: Open
 Vice President Open
 Treasurer: Jan Shively
 Field Trip..... Mark Shively



Rex Young Rock Club

112 East 3rd
 Lingle, WY 82223
 rexyoungrockclub@wsmgs.org

Meets 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
 Senior Center
 216 E. 19th Ave., Torrington

President: Kim Nielsen
 Vice-President: Ed Verplancke
 Treasurer: Helen Vogel
 Secretary: Joyce Trowbridge
 JSN: Joyce Trowbridge
 Historian: Joyce Trowbridge

Natrona County Rockhounds

P.O. Box 123,
 Casper, WY 82644
 natronarockhounds@wsmgs.org

Meets 1st Monday 7 p.m. (April-Dec)
 Shop Open 6-8 p.m. Tue & Fri at
 Clubhouse, 5211 Rambler, Mills

President: Martin "Mac" Goss
 Vice-President: Renee Eddi
 Treasurer: Ken Platte
 Secretary: Kim Platte

Sublette County Rock Hounds Club

P.O. Box 1351
 Big Piney, WY 83113
 subletterockhounds@wsmgs.org

Meets 1 p.m. 3rd Saturday (March-Dec)
 The Bench Grill
 415 Winkleman, Marbleton

President: Jim Gray
 Vice-President: Mike Schaffer
 Treasurer: Leane Gray
 Secretary: Deb Jess
 Field Trips Roger McMannis

Northeast Wyoming Rockhounds

2107C N. Hwy 14-16
 Gillette WY 82716
 newyrockhounds@wsmgs.org

Meets odd # months
 Check email for dates

President: Dennis Brown
 Vice-President: Juli Roller-McDougall
 Treasurer: Open
 Secretary: Open

Rock Shops in Wyoming

Casper

Rick's Rocks

511 South Melrose Street
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 265-7625

Facebook:

caspermonumentsandricksrocks

Storefront: Mon – Fri 9-5,
closed 12-1

Engraved memorials and river rocks

Wonder!

1825 Cy Avenue
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 268-8732

Facebook: Wonder!

Storefront – regular hours

Metaphysical products and books

Cheyenne

Bohemian Metals

314 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
(307) 778-8782

Facebook: Bohemian Metals

Store Front: Tue – Sat 10-6

Jewelry, minerals, fossils, crystals, beads,
rough rock, slabs, and teaching studio

Evanston

Antares Fossils & Minerals

431 Front Street
Evanston, Wyoming 82930
(307) 789-8737

Facebook: Antares-Fossils-Minerals

Storefront – regular hours

Gillette

Rocks to Riches

1758 US – 14
Gillette, WY 82716
(307) 670-8011

Kemmerer

In Stone Fossils

413 Coral Street
Kemmerer, WY 83101

(307) 723-1141

www.instonefossils.com

Facebook: In Stone Fossils

Storefront – Mon – Sat 8-5

Wyoming Fossils

921 Pine Avenue
Kemmerer, WY 83101
(254) 223-3204

www.wyomingfossils.com

Facebook: Wyoming Fossils

Storefront – regular hours

Ulrich's Fossil Gallery

4400 Co Rd 300
Kemmerer, WY 83101
(307) 877-6466

<https://ulrichsfossilgallery.com/>

Facebook: Ulrich's Fossil Gallery

Storefront – Regular hours

Kinnear

R&G Rock and Doll Shop

Linda Richendifer
10709 US Hwy 26
Kinnear, WY 82516
(307) 856-1532

Storefront – by appointment only

Porcelain dolls, rocks, jewelry, rock-
related items

Marbleton / Big Piney

J L Gray Rock Shop

614 E. 3rd Street
Marbleton, Wyoming 83113
(307) 260-6443

Facebook: Friends Who Like J L Gray
Rock Shop

& J L Gray Rock Shop

Storefront – March to Dec 15, Mon –
Fri 9 – 4

Some weekends & by appointment
Rough rock, slabs, cabs, specimens,
fossils, jewelry, beads, books, rock-
related gifts, equipment dealer, lapidary
supplies, classes

Powell

Stone Age Industries

Bill and Linna Beebe
654 Lane 5
Powell, WY 82435

(307) 754-4681; (888) 331-7625

www.stoneageindustries.com

Facebook: StoneAgeIndustries

Store by appointment & online
shopping

Equipment, rocks, gems, grit, polish,
lapidary supplies

Riverton

Rock Solid Lapidary

Melvin and Alice Gustin
518 E. Main Street
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-1388

<https://rocksolidlapidary.com>

Facebook: rocksolidlapidary

Storefront – regular hours

Rocks, beads, rock-related gifts, classes

Star Valley

Star Valley Rock Shop

Fairview, WY 83119
(307) 886-4334

Storefront – Mon – Sat 10 – 5

www.quartzeclipse.com

Thermopolis

Ava's Silver & Rock Shop

631 Shoshone Street
Thermopolis, WY 82443
(307) 864-3800

Facebook: Ava's Silver & Rock Shop

Storefront – Regular hours, closed
Wed.

Torrington

Torrington Rock Shop

4102 US Hwy 26 / 85
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-5938

www.torringtonwyrockshop.com

Facebook: TorringtonRockShop

WSMGS Electronic Board Meeting

December 2022

I. Electronic Meeting Instructions to Board Members:

As a WSMGS Board Member, I ask you to read this Electronic Meeting email and VOTE on all Action Items by selecting "Reply All" after typing your name and indicating a "Agree or Disagree" vote for each numbered Action Item. The Deadline for your responses by "Reply All" email will be Monday, December 26, 2022. If you have questions about any item call, text, or email me at 307-260-6442 or pres@wsmsg.org Board members are encouraged to submit old or new business items that have not been included in this meeting and a special attachment will be sent out for the entire WSMGS Board's consideration.

II. President's Report by Jim Gray:

A. WSMGS 2023 Annual Show will be hosted by Natrona County Rock Hounds at the Ramkota Hotel and will include the annual convention of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The Show is July 14-16, 2023. WSMGS meeting will be at 6:30 pm July 13, 2023, at the Natrona Room at the Ramkota Hotel.

B. State clubs in the past have helped the club doing the state show by donating tumbled rock, rock for silent auction, cash donation to help with advertising, etc. So, if your club wants to help Casper let them know so they can plan.

C. WSMGS will have a sales table at the STATE show. We are asking for donations in the form of rock, used equipment, whatever you have that can be sold to help fund the WSMGS would be greatly appreciated, this is the only WSMGS fundraiser.

D. If any Club has any questions, concerns, or needs please let me know and I will do my best to help.

E. We have a new reporter to help Ilene with the Jade State News. IT is Nella Flurkey.

F. I would like to start adding an Obituary page to the Jade State News. Send this information to pres@wsmsg.org, I need Name, date of birth, date of death. Must be WSMGS club members only.

G. If anyone is interested in becoming a Officer of the WSMGS please let me know and I can get you on the nomination to be voted in Casper 2023.

H. Will be getting the information on the WSMGS meetings schedule for the Natrona County Rockhound show shortly. Will send out to each club.

III. Vice President's Report by Linda Richendifer:

A. Please submit any changes in the WSMGS membership directory to Linda. This directory is not to be copied or shared outside the club membership.

IV. Secretary's Report By Leane Gray:

A. Prior Electronic WSMGS Board Meeting Minutes are printed in the Jade State News, which are available online: wsmsg.org under the heading Newsletters.

V. Treasurer's Report by Mac Goss:

A. WSMGS Club Report Reminders
a) January 1st to May 15th — Form 990N must be electronically submitted to the IRS (The Registered agent for each club should receive this form from the IRS in advance of the deadline). Clubs may contact the IRS directly by email: la2.alt.www4.irs.gov/pub/rup_login_1

B. Deadline for Annual Report to WY Sec. of State Varies by WSMGS Club — Deadline for renewal of "Non Profit Corporation Annual Report" varies by club and is due the 1st day of the month in which the club was first recognized by the Wyoming Secretary of State as a Non Profit Corporation.

(The Registered Agent for your club should receive this form in advance of the club's deadline

WSMGS Clubs' Incorporation Dates:

Cheyenne Mineral & Gem Society	Dec. 2, 1969
Cody 59ers Rock Club	February 1, 2012
Natrona County Rock Hounds	April 15, 1954
Rex Young Rock Club	Not Incorporated
Northeast Wyoming	November 8, 2018
Riverton Mineral & Gem Society	August 17, 2012
Shoshone Rock Club	February 8, 1962
Sublette County Rock Hounds	March 21, 2018
WSMGS Board Incorporated	November 23, 1964

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WSMGS Electronic Board Meeting

(Continued from Page 19)

The treasurer’s report is at the bottom of this page.

VI. Historian Report by Roger McMannis:

VI. Jade State Newsletter by Ilene Olson:

Clubs are encouraged to submit news items, articles, abbreviated minutes, and photos for publication in the Jade State News.

Submission dates to Jade News Editor [jsn@wsmgs.org] are the 1st of February, May, August, and November.

The WSMGS would like to encourage clubs to nominate *non-club members* individuals/couples from your region who have been active in promoting the Earth sciences to be recognized by receiving recognition in the Jade State News as Wyoming Rock Stars!

Check out former winner write-ups on the WSMGS website: wsmgs.org-Menu-WSMGS Topic: Library-WSMGS Awards.

Rock Star Nominations: please submit these nominations with a descriptive paragraph and photo to the JSN. There is not an award associated with the nominations; it is a recognition.

VII. WSMGS Website by Marlene Sibley:

A. The WSMGS needs Action Photos from each of your clubs. Please include the photographer’s name for proper photo credit and a short caption summary as to activity. Send photos to: webmaster@wsmgs.org

B. Marlene would like to update the website and needs club photos in order to do this.

VIII. Old Business: N/A this meeting.

A. WSMGS Club Shows, 2023

Cheyenne, May 13-14

Sublette, June 16-18

Natrona, July 14-16

Shoshone, August 12-13

NE Wyoming, October

IX. New Business:

Please vote AGREE or DISAGREE to the action item.

***VOTE Action Item #1 Passed

Pay Jade State News Editor \$75.00 for supplies etc for the Jade State News Letter.

Vote Yes: All votes were in favor

Vote No: No votes opposed

***VOTE Action Item #2- Passed

Give a gift card for Webmaster Marlene Sibley for \$50.00

Vote Yes: All votes were in favor

Vote No: No votes opposed

X. Meeting Adjourned- Monday, April 24, 2023.

WSMGS Treasurer’s Report — April 2023

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EXPENSE,</u> <u>PAYMENT</u>	<u>Cleared</u> <u>Bank?</u>	<u>REVENUE,</u> <u>DEPOSIT</u>	<u>RUNNING</u> <u>BALANCE</u>	<u>BANK BALANCE</u>	<u>BALANCED?</u>
	Walmart – Two \$50 gift cards for Marlene Sibley +						
Debit Card	12/1/2022 fees	\$ 109.88	x		\$ 4,852.41		
Deposit	12/29/2022 Annual Dues -		x	\$ 231.00	\$ 5,083.41		
Fee	1/31/2023 Bank Charge, no January deposit made	\$ 10.00	x		\$ 5,073.41		
Deposit	2/1/2023 Deposit Annual dues		x	\$ 357.00	\$ 5,430.41		
Debit Card	2/13/2023 Cincinnati - Trailer Insurance 1 year	\$ 434.00	x		\$ 4,996.41		
168	Ilene Olson – Supplies/Expenses for Jade State News	\$ 50.00	x		\$ 4,946.41		
Fee	3/31/2023 Bank Charge – no March deposit made	\$ 10.00	x		\$ 4,936.41	\$ 4,936.41	x

