New Programs - 2004 Program Competition Winners

by Marge Collins, AFMS Program Competition

Here are the latest programs being forwarded to your Regional Federation Library by AFMS. The first three are the 2004 Program Competition winners! We hope you enjoy them all.

Those Fabulous Thunder Eggs, Part 1
by Doug Moore, Don Kelman and others
111 slides

"Once you've seen one, you've seen them all..." applies to thunder eggs only in one sense - when you can recognize these nodules as distinct from other types, you'll begin to appreciate the variety found around the globe. Examples from worldwide locations are included with information about how and where they form.

Recent Finds, New Philadelphia Mine, Rush, Arkansas
by Ed Hakesley 61 slides

The zinc mines near Rush, Arkansas at once produced very fine specimens of smithsonite -- notably the "turkey fat" variety. The now abandoned mines are off limits for collecting due to Park status. The author received permission to explore and collect at this mine outside the Park and recovered many fine specimens.

Tree Stories
VHS video 25 minutes
by Ruby Linglebach

Specimens of petrified wood include evidence of conditions when the tree was alive: stress features, insects or other animals that may have attacked or used the wood as a home, etc. Details also reveal the species and structures of plants that lived millions of years ago. If you examine specimens in your collection, you can read the stories preserved there. (This program will be available in other formats - possibly before 2006).

Videos purchased by AFMS Endowment Fund

"Exotic Terrane" VHS video 27 minutes

Exotic terrane: a rock formation, which is totally out of place from its origins. Analysis of rock formations along our west coast indicates they were formed near the equator and the Rocky Mountains developed as a result of the impact of this chunk of crust crushing into this continent! This is an adventure in geology.

"Glaciers" VHS video 50 minutes

Spectacular scenery illustrates terms such as cirque, bergschrund, drift, till, drumlin, etc. - evidence of the Pleistocene Ice Ages. Graphics show how these rivers of ice formed and we are reminded that most of the North American landscape was sculpted by the gigantic ice sheets. Clues about the future may be found in evidence left by the glaciers.

"Minerals, Gems, & Ores" VHS video 25 minutes
Suitable for all ages except early elementary.

What is a "mineral"? How can they be identified? What are they used for? These and other questions are answered with the reminder that necessities and luxuries for daily life are made from minerals (ores) which are mined around the world. Gemstoned, how they are colored and crystal shapes are also mentioned.

"Mystery in the Andes" approx. 50 minutes from the New Explorer Series VHS video

Travel to the Chilean Andes to collect fossils and search for answers to mysteries - older fossils found in layers on top of younger specimens; evidence of warming when the rest of the planet was cooling and dramatic climate changes. Learn how gaps in the fossil record are filled in and how mammal teeth reveal details about the ecosystem - an event filled trip!

"Searching for the Origins of Life" approx. 50 min From the New Explorer Series VHS video

Explore seemingly inhospitable locations in Yellowstone Park with leading scientists as they collect clues about how and where life began on Earth. Also examine the possibilities of life on Mars and other places.

"Voices in the Stones" approx. 50 minutes From the New Explorer Series VHS video

First, see how Mayan pictograms are finally revealing their secrets. Then travel deep in a gold mine to see how scientists are able to probe the internal structure of the sun by collecting and studying particles that penetrate thousands of feet of rock.

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Reminders:
The deadline for 2005 AFMS Program Competition is April 15th. For Guidelines and Rules see Dec./Jan. Newsletter or contact Coordinator: Marge Collins (269) 695-4313 or margaret@qtm.net

Minerals: The Foundation of Society
Visit the AFMS Website (www.amfed.org)
Welcome to 2005

by Bill Smith, AFMS President

I have asked clubs for ways they share the hobby with the public and add new members. I am very impressed with what the Southern Washington Mineralogical Society, Longview, WA has done. They put together an educational case of identified minerals, fossils, and rocks and informed the local schools that the school which had the most school children attend the local show, WITH THEIR PARENTS, would have the educational case donated to that school. It was a major success.

I want to thank all the editors that send me your club newsletter or have let me know it is on line. There are many very interesting articles and I hope you are making sure they get to your Regional Federation for recognition.

I also want to thank those that have sent me e-mails, especially with questions about the AFMS. Shirley Metts, Secretary of the Magic Valley Gem Club in Twin Falls, ID, asked where the club could obtain more AFMS membership cards. I will have to be honest and say I didn't even know we had such an item. I have found out they are about the size of a business card when folded, has the AFMS logo on the front, a list of the Regional Federations on the back and you can circle the one you belong to, and inside is the AFMS code of ethics. These are very nice cards and can be handed to members of the public to give them a better idea of what we are all about. Your club can order them through your Regional Supply person.

Linda Lanning, Secretary of the Siuslaw Gem and Mineral Club in Florence, OR said they were a growing club (that's great) and was concerned about liability insurance and asked if the AFMS had an insurance program. Sorry to say, the AFMS does not have such a program but several of the Regional Federations do, however, the NFMS does not. If your club needs liability insurance first check with your Regional Federation to see if they have a policy that would cover your club.

John "SpeedyJake" Kramer, web master for the St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club, sent me an e-mail noting he had installed updated hyperlinks to their web site. What made this e-mail so unique was if they have a policy that would cover your club.

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I have been trying to find people who are interested in trading specimens through the mail. I started a Federation Box Swap some time ago in my region of New York and New Jersey. Many clubs weren't interested because they shared the same sites. It was suggested that I try clubs outside the region, and that is the reason for this article.

The plan was to have a club, or a member, pack a box with self-collected mineral specimen, labeled, and ready to travel. The total weight should be as close to ten pounds as possible. When the package is ready for mailing, contact me for the address to be placed on that package and I will give you the address to those mailing theirs out. I have two boxes waiting so far from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. See if someone may be interested, and please let me know.

Specimens, such as these, could be used for prizes, for raffles, or for auctions. Remember to inform those involved that the specimens should be cushioned for travel, and should be of a quality that they would also like to receive. I am only accepting boxes from members of AFMS Clubs. Anyone interested, please contact Michael Kessler, EFMLS Region II Vice President - California Federation June 10-12, 2005 Roseville, California

Eastern Federation March 18 - 20, 2005 Sayre, Pennsylvania

Midwest / AFMS August 16-21, 2005 St. Louis, Missouri

South Central Date to be determined Austin, Texas

Southeast November 12 - 12 Orlando, Florida

West Coast Date to be determined Los Angeles, California

Upcoming Regional Federation Shows

by Mary Trammell, AFMS Show Coordinator

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FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

by Jim Robinson, President-elect

With the holidays behind, a brand New Year ahead, now is the time to get started on the New Year. There is a lot of work to be done, some has changes have already taken place, other are on the way.

Our President Bill Smith and I attended the Southeast Federation meeting in early December; during the weekend of the meeting we had the opportunity to discuss the many aspects of the AFMS Organization. I am happy to report our views are parallel and a good smooth working relationship is anticipated during the year.

As Bill commented on in his first message, communications is one of my main concerns also. In all the years I have been associated with the AFMS the main complaint that I have heard over and over is; I was assigned to this committee, but have never heard a word from anyone about what I am supposed to do, or I contacted so and so but they never got back to me. This is most likely true in most cases, not because they didn’t want to answer but because they didn’t have a ready answer, so it’s put aside until they can talk to so and so. Guess what, so and so didn’t have one either. Now several weeks or months later we have some one disgruntled and unhappy who just doesn’t care anymore.

The rockhound community is made up of the most talented and caring people I have ever known, all volunteers willing to take on any task assigned. So please folks let talk to one another. If you are assigned to a committee get in touch with the chairperson and find out what you can do to help, chairpersons contact your committee people and let them know what you need from them.

The one thing you can rest assured on is: if you have a question for me, and I am sure I speak for Bill as well, you will get an answer.

SAFETY FIRST - EYE SAFETY

by Bill Klose, AFMS Safety Chairperson

Eyes require protection at all times of the year, whether it is protection from the sun on the way to a collecting site, protection from flying particles at a collecting site, or protection from chemicals, dust, or particles while processin our finds back home in the shop.

Eye hazards include particles, dusts, mists, vapors, fumes, gases, and ultraviolet light. Many of these hazards are encountered by rock hounds in pursuit of their passion.

Safety glasses or spectacles are designed to provide impact protection from flying particles and have heavier frames than normal spectacles with impact resistant lenses, usually of poly carbonate. These lenses can be tinted to protect the eyes from laser or ultraviolet light and the sun rays. As most particles enter the eyes at an angle, it is recommended that the frames accommodate and are worn with side shield sides or have them "built in". Safety glasses are available with corrective lenses, even bifocal and multifocal lenses. Do not use spec-tacles intended for protection from radiation and glare from the sun indoors where your vision may be impaired by the tinted lenses. Spectacles should be fitted to your eye and bridge size and temple length and should fit comfortably over the eyes. The frame should be close to the face and supported by the bridge of the nose. Keep spectacles clean and clear of scratches. Store spectacles in a dry clean place where they will not fall or be stepped on. Scratched or damaged spectacles interfere with vision and do not provide protection for the eyes from fumes, vapors, liquids, and large particles and should be discarded.

Safety goggles provide a secure shield around the entire eye area to protect against hazards com-

HONORING SERVICE TO JUNIORS: MIKE BALDWIN AND THE MAGS EXPLORER

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Activities Chair

I’d like to start the New Year as we should, by putting people first! In one of my earlier columns, I issued a call for names of people and their accomplish-
ments in working with kids and youth, and I repeat this call today. My goal is twofold: to honor those who are going above and beyond in introducing youth to our hobby and to share a bit of their experience that might help guide and inspire our own efforts. In response to this call for names, Diane Dare has shared the following:

Mike Baldwin is editor of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society's newsletter, MAGS Rockhound News. He had been including a youth page in each issue, which had articles and also two "cards" to cut out, with mineral or fossil data on them. Then this past year he started putting out a four-page bul-
letin, JUST FOR JUNIORS, THE MAGS Explorer, which is distributed at the Junior Meeting. Mike was given a special award from AFMS for this outstanding publication and received a Special Judging Award from the Southeast Federation at their convention in December. In the regular (adult) club bulletin, he now has a page of "MNE-MAGS NEWS: What's Happening With The Kids?" To learn more from Mike on how to involve your kids in your current newsletter or how to start one of their own, you can contact him at editor@memphigensalogy.org.

Last year, I shared the accomplishments of Ismael Sanchez and his Mineral Mines of the Kern County (California) Mineral Society and a similar ter-
ific monthly newsletter they’ve created. I welcome more such stories. (Diane has already sent a sec-
ond name and story, which I’ll share in next month’s column.) Please send me names of individuals, their club affiliations, and their accomplishments so that I can share them in these pages. (Send to: Jim Brace-Thompson, 1910 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003; email jbrace@adelphia.net; phone 805-659-3577.) As 2005 progresses, let’s celebrate those among us who are teaching and guiding our kids in the hobby while—ad always—having fun!
California Federation

The Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society would like to honor Corrine Byers as our “AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year”. Corrine has been very active in our club almost since her first meeting. She served as our editor for several years. Now she is our Vice President. She has arranged for several very good speakers and special programs. Our attendance has grown with these great programs. Corrine is a very talented artist and has generously shared her creative talents with our club. She has presented programs on beading and other jewelry techniques. She also has arranged and displayed a club case for us at several local shows. We are very proud to have Corrine in our club and wish to acknowledge and thank her for all her hard work.

submitted by Debbie Bam President, Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society

Fossils For Fun would like to honor Don Tadlock as our “AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year”. Almost since his first meeting, Don has been actively involved in all our activities. He brings refreshments to every meeting and is known as the “cookie man”. As our Vice President, Don has been responsible for arranging some very good speakers and other types of programs. He’s always there when we need him. He hosts our Board meetings, and twice—when we could not hold our educational meetings at our regular site—Don had the entire club meet at his house. Don displays his wonderful fossils at several of our local shows, and is usually seen at any local rockhound event supporting other local clubs. We are very lucky to have such an active member as Don, and want to acknowledge and thank him for all his hard work.

submitted by Debbie Bam President, Fossils For Fun

The Pasadena Lapidary Society voted unanimously on their October general meeting to honor Ivan and Dot Grieve as the society’s choice of AFMS Club Rockhound Couple of the Year 2004. In the forty plus years of membership they have served by chairing numerous committees and projecting the tradition and essence of the lapidary arts. Ivan, with his specialty of machinist, not only produced metal objects to keep club equipment running but also helped other club members solving mechanical breakdowns on field trips. Ivan sets up the assembly line to efficiently produce 1500 grab bags of rocks each year. Dot is the innovative leader often magnetically drawn to the table by piles of beautiful specimens. She assists the membership at our next meeting. From that point on they really shine through when it comes to manning the club table at shows. They both demonstrate lapidary techniques at the club shows over the years and have served as the primary organizers of the Gem and Mineral part of the annual Los Angeles County Fair. Dot served as club kitchen chair for a number of years and assembled the ingredients for the famous chilli served at the club show. She has also been club historian since the early 1970s. Ivan and Dot have been “there” for the club throughout the decades by their dedication and devotion to club activities and club members.

submitted by Vern Coffey, Federation Director

Pasadena Lapidary Society

Midwest Federation

Our club has a “perfect gem” in club member, Michele Yamamaka. The Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana nominates her as her candidate for the 2004 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year recognition. The past three years she has been show and publicity chairman for our highly successful annual shows. She is currently serving as chairman of membership and education, and as field trip chairman she plans a monthly rock excursion. She is the innovative leader of our Junior Members and is building their interest in our hobby with a special program for them at every monthly club meeting. Michele writes a column for junior members in our club bulletin and writes other articles for club members. She also serves as Junior Chairman for the Midwest Federation. In past years she has served as our President and program chair. To top it all off in 2005 she will become editor of The Silica, our monthly bulletin. Michele is generous with her time and talents. We submit her name for recognition for many jobs well done.

Submitted by Marie Zigler, club past editor

The Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society

Northwest Federation

Our club would like to nominate Andre and Sheila Macia for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year award. They are a pair that operates as one where our club’s activities are concerned. Andre is a successful Parker pen salesman by trade and finds it impossible to duplicate them. Our club’s Silent Auction has been the beneficiary of many of his projects. Andre has volunteered for most club activities. If asked she always seem to find the time to do a precise and competent job. She, together with three others, runs our hospitality offering at each monthly meeting. Andre has been one of our cashiers at the Silent Auction for many years. She is a warm, wonderful person who like her husband, enjoys giving with a full heart. She always has a smile for old friends or new members.

submitted by David Dick, Treasurer and Historian

Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society

Eastern Federation

I would like to recognize Lorraine Campbell, the co-founder of our Junior Rockhounds program and our first Junior Rockhounds teacher, at the 2004 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Delaware Valley Earth Science Society. New Jersey. Lorraine came up with an innovative program including providing a box for each child to keep their specimens in, some simple tools and a notebook for their lessons. At each of our 10 monthly meetings per year, Lorraine would provide a mineral or fossil specimen for each child, a handout explaining it, and an activity for them involving the specimen. All specimens were donated either by club members or by Lorraine herself. Lorraine proved herself to be a wonderful teacher, preparing each lesson with care. She was warm and encouraging, and her smile lit the room. The club also provided a gift for each child at our holiday party (gold in 2004!). Still an active member, Lorraine moved to Tennessee a year ago, leaving myself and our Field Trip Chairman to conduct the Junior’s classes. This has opened my eyes to what a responsibility and effort the preparation and teaching are! I move has not prevented Lorraine from attending meetings and Executive Board meetings – an 18 hour drive. This is my 21st year with DVESS and I can honestly say that Lorraine stands out as one of our Rockhounds I have met for her thoughtfulness, dedication and ability to inspire.

submitted by Ann Banen, president, DVESS

The Carmichael Gem & Mineral Society

Clyf and Joy Bourne of the Year are an indispensable couple, Clyf and Joy Bourne. Clyf is our outstanding club Treasurer, EFMLS Liaison and Show Hospitality Chairman. He teaches cabochon making at the show as well as making dozens of cab pre-forms in preparation for the show. Joy is Club Newsletter Editor and in 2004 was inducted into the Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame. She has served for several years as the Club Show Publicity Chairperson, spends endless hours on various other printing projects for the club and demonstrates faceting at the show. Clyf and Joy host the club board meeting and a summer picnic at their home, have done junior and adult meeting programs, donate to every club auction and event and take on so many other tasks it is impossible to list them all.

submitted by Fran Sick, President

Midwest Federation

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submitted by Marie Zigler, club past editor

The Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society

As a past recipient of the Each Club, Each Year, One Rockhound Award I would like to submit the nomination of Hans and Lisa Hoeffner as joint recipients of the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Since they are a team, one cannot be nominated without the other. Since Hans is Lisa’s high school sweetheart they have consistently given of their time and resources to make the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society a better club. Hans was once described in an article in our newsletter as a modern DeLucci. He has not only explained many fields in the hobby, but he has brought the results of his explorations to our meetings: lapidary creations, spheres, inlaid wood projects, making cabs and faceted stones, fossil collection and preservation, shell collecting as a form of paleontology, and locations to gather rocks and minerals. He often makes his own tools out of everyday available materials, and then explains how anyone can duplicate them. Our club’s Silent Auction has been the beneficiary of many of his projects. Lisa has volunteered for most club activities. If asked she always seem to find the time to do a precise and competent job. She, together with three others, runs our hospitality offering at each monthly meeting. Lisa has been one of our cashiers at the Silent Auction for many years. She is a warm, wonderful person who like her husband, enjoys giving with a full heart. She always has a smile for old friends or new members.

submitted by David Dick, Treasurer and Historian

Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society

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submitted by David Dick, Treasurer and Historian

Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society

continued on page 7
California Federation

ARIEL AUFFANT
California State University, Bakersfield, CA

Thesis Title and Abstract: Stratigraphy, paleo-environments, and hydrocarbon migration of the shallow oil zone in Elk Hills and Cole Levee fields, San Joaquin basin, California.

Career goal: to become a petroleum geologist for a major-oil company. Our planet’s need for energy is increasing exponentially, especially in developing countries that are going to need more energy resources to improve their standards of living. I will find great personal satisfaction in knowing that my work will help supply the energy that the world is going to need in the future.

CODY Z. NASH
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA
Department of Geological & Planetary Sciences
Ph.D. Biominalization

We’ve known for many years that living organisms can precipitate a wide variety of different minerals, ranging from the apatite in our bones and teeth to the aragonite, calcite, and vaterite in clams, to the magnetite and goethite in the teeth of mollusks. His work is finally giving us a glimpse of the biochemical machinery used by at least one group of organisms to make minerals.

Of interest: Cody was very interested in the halite from Sears Lake, CA which has a reddish color caused by the bacteria.

Eastern Federation

RAMANANDA CHAKRABARTI
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York
B.Sc. Honors Geology, Chemistry, Physics, Calcutta University
M.Sc. in Applied Geology, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
M.S. in Geochemistry, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.

Research Interests: Trace element, radiogenic and stable isotope geochemistry. Mineralogy, Petrology. Currently pursuing Ph.D. in Mineralogy and Geochemistry.

ARUNDHUTI GHATAK
B.Sc. Honours in Geology, Chemistry, Physics, from St. Xavier’s College, University of Mumbai, 2002.
Currently pursuing Ph.D in Earth and Environment Science, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. Research Interests: Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry.

Midwest Federation

JILL LEONARD-PINNEG
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Department of Geology and Geophysics
M.S. Geology expected 2005
Graduated Cum Laude, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA, 2003

Senior Thesis: Climate indicators detected in annual growth bands of Pleistocene “Mantastrea” collected from Belize, Central America

Teaching experience: Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Paleontology, Louisiana State University, 2003

JACOB SPINSBY
Arizona State University, Physical Sciences, Tempe, Arizona
B.A. Geology, Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA, 2003

Current research Interests: Further development, through programming and algorithm research, of electron tomography, specifically for use in mineralogical and related studies.

Research Skills: Extensive computer knowledge and experience, including many programming languages, Transmission Electron Microscopy, Electron Tomography.

Teaching experience: Teaching Assistant: Course Introduction to Geology, honors section, Faculty in Geological Sciences, Arizona State University.

Northwest Federation

KIMBERLY FOWLER
Geosciences Department, Boise State University, Boise, ID
Graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, with B.A. in Geosciences.

JEREMY ALEXANDER
Geosciences Department, Boise State University, Boise, ID
Graduated from University of Arkansas with B.A. in Geology

Interest: Mountain building and Tectonic processes. The “detective” side of geology (what happened? when, why, where and how) will always be a driving interest for me as well.

I was a professional rafting guide on the Arkansas River in Colorado and after spending everyday outside among some fantastic geology I was convinced of what I should finish my undergraduate career studying. Now my interest lies mostly in field study.

Rocky Mountain Federation

ROB SANDERS
New Mexico State Tech, E & ES Department Socorro, New Mexico
M.S. geologic history of rock in Central New Mexico

Of interest: Rob has several mining claims for mineral samples and is an avid mineral collector.

AFMS NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY, 2005
SECRETS???

I guess everyone has some secrets, but the one secret you need to "tell" is the one about your new club officers. How else will we know who is supposed to receive the AFMS Newsletter?

Send me the name and address of your President, Editor and either Secretary or Federation Director so I can update the mailing list. Don’t forget to tell us the name of your club too!

This information can be sent via e-mail <central_office@amfed.org> or via snail mail (see page 7). Please do so today so we can keep the lines of communication between you and the Federation open.

I’m looking forward to a bulging "mail file" or a weighed down mailperson!

Thanks also to those clubs sending their newsletter to our home either by snail or e-mail. Since the AFMS Editor lives in the same house, you only need to send one copy each month - we do share.

We read and enjoy them all and always learn something new. From them we gain a better understanding of how the AFMS can help your Regional Federation and your club.

IS IT REALLY QUARTZ??

by B. Jay Bowman

The author must give you a little back ground. The author is not a mineralogist, but he is a Graduate Geologist, with a diploma from the Geological Institute of America. The author has been studying gems since the early 1950’s. He was making jewelry and cutting stones for many years as well as reading extensively about various stones. He did not join a formal gem and mineral club until 1982, about the same time that he was finishing the GIA course of study. The author has been involved extensively since that time with judging and uniform rules for judging.

It was shortly after the last AFMS Convention and show that the subject of this article came up. The author was informed that a study had been published showing that opal was not a variety of quartz and that the rules needed to be changed and widely disseminated before someone lost points in a display because of mislabeling. The author was informed that "it was widely recognized through the amateur ranks that opal was a form of quartz."

After communications with several members of the EFMILS uniform rules committee and other rock hounds around the country, it was found that only a few of the people contacted had heard this before and only one of those thought that opal was a variety of quartz.

The author got out his books on mineralogy and gemology as well as going to the library to read books not in the authors possession. In none of these books was it found that quartz was listed as a variety of quartz. Yes they are both silicon dioxide but so is cristobalite, which is listed separately from quartz grows in the triclinic crystal system, coesite which grows in the monoclinic system, and several others. They are all associated with quartz and each other but listed as separate minerals with varying optical and physical characteristics. None are called variet- ies of quartz and some have varieties of there own (cristobalite-variety, lussatite). So it appears that the mere fact that they have the same chemical formula does not make them all quartz.

The AFMS Lapidary list does not include opal in its varieties of quartz. It does list several varieties of opal. The AFMS Mineral Classification List lists both quartz and opal as separate minerals. In one of the references opal is called a "mineraloid" because this reference says a true mineral must have a crystal form. You will also note in the Classification List all of the gem names of the various minerals are discredited. If opal was a gem variety of quartz then it would be discredited as a mineral name.

Opal and quartz have distinctive differences in both optical and physical characteristics. Opal is single refractive with a refractive index of 1.45 (<080, <0020) and quartz is double refractive with refractive indices of 1.544 and 1.553. The hardness of opal is 6-6½; quartz is 7. The specific gravity of opal is 2.15 (-07, ±07); Quartz is 2.66 (<03). Opal is amorphous, and depending on which book you read quartz grows in either the triclinic or the hexagonal crystal system. It does seem that the hexagonal system is mentioned more frequently.

Back to the original question "Is it quartz?", the author does not think so and could go on citing many other reasons for this belief but thinks the ones cited should be sufficient to at least make any one who is interested and shows minerals to make there own study and find facts to back up their beliefs.
The Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society of Ogden, Utah are proud to nominate Leo and Shirley McConnell as their 2004 AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year. They joined the Golden Spike in 1969 after their first field trip to collect variscite. They attended their first gem show when it was held at the Ford Motor Company showroom. They were soon hooked and had great fun taking their four children on field trips. Leo became field trip chairman in 1972 and was asked to be vice president. Leo loved to facet and his children have many rings, belt buckles and necklaces which showed off his skills. Shirley was treasurer, secretary and was bulletin editor in the 1980’s. They took over the Touch-n-See exhibit and traveled to Idaho, Washington and Logan, Utah displaying their wares. Their most fun experience was taking the exhibit to schools. The children and adults enjoyed the “Floating Rock.” The big piece of pumice would float and a piece of Iron Wood would sink.

Submitted by: Bonnie Glismann, Board member Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society

South Central Federation:
Kellee and Bob Greenway have been two strong supportive members of the Austin Gem and Mineral Society (Texas). Bob has served in various offices of AFMS. This year he assumed the duty of renovating, rebuilding or replacing the machines as necessary in the cabbing room so that the club can have classes again on a regular basis. Meanwhile, Kellee has taken over the refreshments at the club meetings as Hospitality Chair. She has done an excellent job in organizing support, invoking some innovative ideas in refreshments and dedicating considerable time in supplying the club with excellent treats. Additionally, they have been active in the Annual Gem Capers show as well as other activities. These two, in their respective club duties, have certainly earned “2004 AFMS Club Rockhounds of the Year.”

South Central Federation:
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Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter; Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum; and USGS will cosponsor a mineralogical symposium on Agate and Other Cryptocrystalline Quartz Sat.-Sun., Sep. 10-11, 2005 (the weekend before the Denver Gem & Mineral Show) Green Center, Colorado School of Mines, Golden CO 2 days of lecture presentations Saturday evening banquet reception and tours of CSM Geology Museum field trips to Colorado mineral localities, Mon./Tues., Sep. 12-13 registration fee $40

If interested in attending and receiving further information about the symposium, please send your name, address, and phone number and/or email address to: pmodreski@usgs.gov, or to Friends of Mineralogy, P.O. Box 5276, Golden CO 80401-5276

If you would like to offer to present a paper on some aspect of cryptocrystalline quartz and related topics (agate, chalcedony, jasper, chert, opal, geodes, thunder eggs, etc.), please contact: Pete Modreski, USGS, Denver CO, pmodreski@usgs.gov, 303-202-4766

Friends of Mineralogy-COlorado Chapter P.O. Box 5276 Golden, CO 80401-5276

THE A.F.M.S. NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT JANUARY, JULY AND AUGUST BY THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION QUESTIONS EACH REGIONAL FEDERATION CLUB IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THREE (3) COPIES OF THE AFMS NEWSLETTER. THESE ARE SENT TO THE PRESIDENT, EDITOR AND SECRETARY. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE $4.50 PER YEAR REMIT PAYMENT TO THE AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO “AFMS” ADDRESS MAINTENANCE AND MAIL LABELING ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE. ALL CHANGES AND QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO: AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE STEVE WEINBERGER PO BOX 302 GLYNDON, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <central_office@amfed.org>

CONTENT - LETTERS EDITORIAL COMMENTS - SUBMISSIONS ANY COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OR FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR: CAROLYN WEINBERGER PO BOX 302 GLYNDON, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <editor@amfed.org>

DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION (I.E. APRIL 1 FOR THE MAY ISSUE)

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MEL ALBRIGHT

A native of Oklahoma, Mel was a chemical engineer for a major petroleum company. He was active in his local rock and mineral club, the Bartlesville Gem & Mineral Society, serving as President.

Mel was also active in both the Rocky Mountain and American Federations. Mel was the first webmaster for Rocky Mountain and later served on the AFMS Committee which set up guidelines for the AFMS website. He also served as AFMS Editor.

It was as AFMS Safety Chairperson that Mel was perhaps best known. His monthly columns were probably the most reprinted items from the AFMS Newsletter each month. He was always on the ball and his columns reflected new warnings, practical advice and well researched information.

He is survived by his wife, Jessie, two daughters, four step-children, three grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Contributions in Mel's memory should be directed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % of your Regional Scholarship Coordinator.

Carolyn Weinberger

AFMS COPE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project HELP. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

ROBERT CRANSTON

1927 - January 2, 2005

Bob Cranston of Grand Junction, Colorado, passed away January 2, 2005, and the rockhounds of America lost a tireless worker for their cause. He, personally, probably did more in the effort to keep public lands open and available for the collection of the rocks, minerals and fossils that rockhounds enjoy than any other one individual. He will be missed.

Bob was a member of the Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Club and served for a number of years as the Rocky Mountain Federation’s Assistant State Director for Colorado and the Federation’s Colorado representative on their Public Lands Advisory Committee. He was also long-time Secretary for the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), and it was in this position that he made his greatest contribution to our hobby. By prolific use of the e-mail system, he kept people on his long address list currently informed of threats to collector access to public lands. Despite his seriously deteriorating health in recent months, he continued to use his information sources and computer skills to provide this current and useful information. His last article for the AFMS Newsletter appeared in the December - January issue.

His yeoman-like service to the rockhound cause was recognized by the Rocky Mountain Federation several years ago when he was presented with their Gold Pan Award. This is a special award that is made when the occasion calls for an especially deserving individual to be recognized, and is not something that automatically happens annually.

Bob’s health had been bad for a number of years. He had had three coronary by-pass surgeries, suffered from diabetes, had a serious interaction problem with prescription drugs that caused macular deterioration and recently was diagnosed with lung cancer. The final blow was when he fell and broke an arm, after which he was hospitalized and developed pneumonia, from which he didn’t survive.

He was 77 years old and is survived by Shirley, his wife of 54 years, one daughter and one granddaughter, all of whom live in Grand Junction.

Contributions in Bob’s memory should be directed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % of your Regional Scholarship Coordinator or to the Hospice of your choice.

John Alf

SECRETS?

From Steve Weinberger AFMS Central Office Administrator

I guess everyone has some secrets, but the one secret you need to "tell" is the one about your new club officers. How else will we know who is supposed to receive the AFMS Newsletter?

Send me the name and address of your President, Editor and either Secretary or Federation Director so I can update the mailing list. Don’t forget to tell us the name of your club too!

This information can be sent via e-mail <central_office@amfed.org> or via snail mail (see page 7). Please do it today so we can keep the lines of communication between you and the Federation open.

I’m looking forward to a bulging “mail file” or a weighed down mailbox!