



Slabs & Cabs

Volume 65

Number 02

February 2013

Howdy Rockhounds,



As I write this I am in Arizona at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. We have enjoyed catching up with vendors we see each year, getting reacquainted and seeing all the exquisite new material they have brought to the show. Of the 40 plus shows that go on through the 3 weeks, we see a very small fraction of it during the week that we are here. The mornings start early and end at 6, and we are wore out at the end of the day. The amethyst is spectacular, abundant and expensive; but so gorgeous.

A new Animated Dinosaur Display was set up in the courtyard at Hotel Tucson. It was fun to see them come to life as they moved their heads about looking for prey. I'm sure Gene and Dee would agree if you ever have opportunity to attend the Tucson Show you'd be amazed at the wonders of the world you would see.

Speaking of shows ours is just around the corner; mark your calendars for March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Our set up starts early on Friday the 1st, with the show on Saturday and Sunday. Sign up sheets are available at our meeting.

Gene is putting together a touch table, which will be new for our show this year. Russell Wheeler will man this booth and do mineral identification. We appreciate his expertise!

I look forward to seeing you at the Feb. meeting on Feb. 19th, Jerrold has a program planned so come out and join us!

The color for Feb. is Red so bring your favorite red minerals to display on the "It Certainly is Exquisite, but what the Dickens is it?" table. The best red out fit will receive a prize.

See you Tuesday!

Joe

Happy Valentine's Day

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Birthstone - Traditional

The February-born shall find
Sincerity and peace of mind,
Freedom from passion and from care,
If they an amethyst will wear.

2012/13 Board

- President
Joe Grimes
 - Vice-President
Jerrold Simpson
 - Past President
Kevin Schleicher
 - Secretary
Gilbert Trejo
 - Treasurer
open position
 - Membership / Web master
Gene Schade
 - Newsletter
Sylvia Kernen, newsletter@gcgms.org
 - Education
open position
 - Librarian
Linda Simpson
 - Show / Dealer Chair
Jerrold Simpson
 - Show Publicity
Donna Grimes
 - Shop Coordinator
Mark Wolbrink
 - Field Trip Coordinator
open position
 - Federation Liaison
Joe Grimes
 - Historian
open position
 - Communications
Suzy Nick
 - Door Prizes
Michelle Alvarez
 - Refreshment Hostess
Theresa Cline
- www.gcgms.org

Club News & Information



Happy Birthday

to: Michael Foster Daniel Grieswold
 Russell Hooten Susan Hutchinson
 Sondra Scotch

and all members born in February! Please send me your birthdate information, so you can be mentioned as well. newsletter@gcgms.org

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2013
 Membership dues for 2013 are due in January 2013. We have 4 types of memberships and they are as follows:

1. Single \$ 15.00
2. Spousal \$ 20.00
3. Junior \$ 5.00
 (this is for any member from the age of 6 - 17)
4. Honorary, does not pay dues

If dues are not paid by the time of the show you will forfeit your membership



Frances R. Martin

Corpus Christi, TX

Frances R. Martin, 87, passed away on Sunday, February 3, 2013 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

She was born in Brownsville, Texas on October 31, 1925 to Edward C. and Leonora Raymond. She was a descendant of one of the first settlers of the Rio Grande Valley, Jose Nicholas Cavazos and her grandfather, Edward Burleson Raymond, who was the founder of Raymondville, Texas.

Frances was a honorary member of the Corpus Christi Gem and Mineral Society



Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society's 51st Show

Marked it displays of
 - minerals
 - fossils
 - gems

Stop for
 - jewelry
 - minerals
 - fossils
 - much more
 Have many vendors

Kids young and old
 - show prizes
 - kids wheel

Sat. March 2nd 10am - 6pm
 Sun. March 3rd 10am - 5pm
 Richard M Blanchard Regional Fairgrounds
 1213 Larry Weaver Blvd. Baytown TX
 www.GCGMS.org

51st Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Show

Our annual GCGMS Show is quickly approaching. Please make it a point to come to the Meeting on **19th February**. We need volunteers for all kinds of chores and posts before, during and after the show! Any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Oh and if you or your children would like to display any of your rocks, we have display cases that need to be filled to show the visitors all the wonderful things you can find on field trips and what can be created at our very own lapidary shop.

Calling all Shutterbugs!!!

Because of new technology our TV advertisement needs updating. Please bring your cameras to the show and take pictures showing what our show and or club is about. Please get permission from vendors before taking pictures of their material. A few ideas: **Silent Auction, Kids Wheel, Stage pictures of kids from our club in different activities or enjoying different aspects of our show.** Those are just a few ideas, remember to ask permission to use photos of our guests in case it is used in the advertisement. Put your creativity to use and come up with some great photos. Pictures need to be submitted to Donna Grimes on a Disc, by the end of May as we will start selecting and making our new advertisement during the summer months. Thank you, Donna

General Meeting Minutes 15 January 2013

of the Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

The GCGMS Regular Meeting for 1/15/2013 was called to order by President Joe Grimes at 6:59pm. The meeting was held at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Secretary Report. Jerrold did the minutes of the last Board Meeting. Mark Brackin made a motion seconded by Hank Swan to accept the Secretary's Report. All voted aye.

The Treasurer was not at the meeting so Joe Grimes gave the Treasurer Report. Jerrold Simpson made a motion seconded by Norma Trejo to accept the Treasurer's Report. All voted aye.

Mark Wolbrink gave the shop report. Mark said he is getting ready for the Rock Show. Mark said there are lots of geodes available for volunteers to polish for the show. Russell Wheeler made a motion seconded by Bill Patillo to accept the Shop Report.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Membership Report from the Board Meeting. Mark Brackin made a motion seconded by Dick Cline to accept the Membership Report.

Jerrold Simpson gave the Show Report. Jerrold said that there are 24 committed dealers and we should have 27 dealers. Donna Grimes has pre-sale tickets and flyers. She said postcards are going out in the middle of February. Joe Grimes said there are sign-up sheets for the various positions, in the back. Joe suggested that if you sign up for something new there will be someone to help you learn. Jerrold Simpson said that there are also sign-in sheets for display cases for your collections or to show what you made in class. Donna Grimes made a motion seconded by Bill Patillo to accept the Show and Advertising reports. All voted aye.

Under new business Gene Schade gave a report on the two scholarships for Chester Scotch and Riaz Khan. Gene asks if we are going to look into the next scholarship as to continuing to fund undergraduate and graduate students and do we fund all earth sciences. Norma Trejo made a motion seconded by Donna Grimes to accept Scholarship Report.

Donna Grimes said that by next year we will need a new commercial for the Rock Show advertisement. Donna asks that members take pictures at the show and send them to her for submission to the TV station.

Joe Grimes asks about Kid Camp. Kevin Schleicher said that there would be a second year lapidary class for participants of the first year camp. Kevin said the regular camp will be in the morning and the lapidary camp later in the day. Kevin said the camp will be five days and they need adult volunteers to assist in the Kids Camp.

Linda Simpson said that she and Jerrold would be doing presentations on rocks and minerals in everyday life at the Neyland Library.

Under new business, Joe Grimes said that Hank Swan had volunteered for the Treasures but could not serve because of his health. We need a new volunteer for Treasurer.

Jerrold Simpson said that there is a field trip going to Eagle Pass this 19th and 20th put on by the San Antonio Rock Club and we have been invited. He said he would give more information for Sylvia to send out.

Joe Grimes stated that Sylvia does a good job with the newsletter and, other than the Presidents Letter and the minutes, all items are done by Sylvia. Joe asks that members need to send Sylvia articles, poems etc. for the newsletter.

Joe Grimes said that we do not have a refreshment person since Letty Rodriguez retired from this job. The Board has not decided how to deal with this and we do not know what will happen after May after the new company takes over the Museum. Theresa Cline volunteered to take over the position till May.

Kevin Schleicher makes a motion to adjourn at 7:44pm seconded by Bill Patillo. The motion passed.



An excerpt of Mark and Renita's trip blog

To Alaska and Back Jade City in British Columbia



August 15, 2012:
The Cassier
Highway, Jade
City, Dease Lake

We left Watson Lake, (well not really Watson Lake but the junction of the Cassier and the Alaskan Highway),

and headed south for Jade City and Hyder. Our goal for the first day was to make it to Dease Lake, after first stopping at Jade City and hopefully adding to our jade collection.

The highway itself started out as a narrow version of the Alaskan Highway. It was really pretty good and we averaged thirty five miles per hour. It actually got a little better and the scenery is simply spectacular as the Cassier Mountains rose in their entire splendor. The road itself follows the Dease River for quite a while and so we enjoyed the river and numerous quiet lakes.

Ruffled grouse all seemed to be feeding on gravel along the route and I thought we were going to catch a few in our grill but they all flushed as we neared. We got passed by everyone but that's ok as who knows if we will ever travel this road again and so it's our time to smell the roses.

Seventy miles south we neared Jade City and so we stopped to look for some free jade. The road cut was full of green rocks and we actually picked up some BC jade and some emerald snowflake jade rough. When we arrived at Jade City we saw huge boulders of jade and tables filled with sliced pieces and slabs.

We were both like little children as we posed besides the mammoth rocks. Emerald greens, mutton jade layers and black speckled greens were all in abundance. Walking to the tables we started to wet pieces and soon one of the miners arrived and sprayed the blocks with water allowing us to

grade the jade ourselves.

I asked her where the highest grade was and she said that it all was purchased by Chinese buyers and sure enough a buyer was inside the store. WE did manage to find and purchase some rough that will make some beautiful cabochons including some that had inclusions of bright green chromium, chromium diopside I believe).

We put our purchases in the truck and went back just to see all of the beautiful rock. One of the miners showed us some stunning, what I would call a turtleback translucent jade, and he took our card promising us he would contact us when he had sliced more.

See they have an outcrop of the jade and they can't blast it as it will fracture so they have to slice pieces in the mine and then bring them to the store to further slice, grade and sell. All of the miners did admire Renita's Wyoming Jade pendant and complimented us on our work.

So we left Jade City and continued our drive. The road was really good for about forty miles and then the frost heaves and gravel breaks came out to play, Slowing down again I took it easy and so it took us about five hours to travel one hundred and fifty miles to Dease Lake and the private campground.

There are lots of places to boon dock along the road, but we wanted electricity for our freezers as they are filled with salmon. We did find diesel and filled up so we are good to go for Stewart and Hyder tomorrow. Clear skies!



Birthstone for February - Amethyst

Amethyst

Chemistry: SiO₂, silicon dioxide

Subclass: Tectosilicates

Class: Silicates

Group: Quartz

History of Amethyst

According to Greek myth, Dionysius, god of intoxication, was angered by an insult from a mere mortal and swore revenge on the next mortal that crossed his path, creating fierce tigers to carry out his wish. Along came the unsuspecting Amethyst, a beautiful maiden on her way to pay tribute to the goddess Diana. Diana turned Amethyst into a statue of pure crystalline quartz to protect her from the tigers. Dionysus wept tears of wine in remorse at the sight of the beautiful statue. The god's tears stained the quartz purple, creating the gem we know today.



Amethyst in its natural state as a druze of crystals.

Photo by Ron Eng

Science of Amethyst

Amethyst is a member of the quartz family, occurring as crystals within rocks. Quartz often grow within cavities of cooling lava, forming geodes.

Although the gem color must always be purple to be amethyst, it has a wide range of purple shades. Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six-sided pyramid at either end, or it can form as crystalline crusts called druzes that only show the pointed ends. Amethyst is popular for its color and crystal shapes that produce handsome, purple, sparkling clusters.

An alternate birthstone for February is onyx, a variety of the cryptocrystalline quartz that is opaque or translucent and comes in different colors that are banded in straight and parallel lines.

Source: http://www.burkemuseum.org/geology/birthstones_feb




Amethysts as cut gemstones.

Photo by Ron Eng

test your
knowledge!



 Igneous is bliss

Mystery Fossil



Is it a component of someone's Chex Party Mix? Unlikely, as that scale bar is only a tenth of a millimeter wide! This particular organism is from Miocene marine sediments in southern California. Any ideas on what it is?

Did you guess correctly?

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/historyoflife/mysteries/mystery43/mystery43.html>

Source: University of California Museum of Paleontology
<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/>

Lapidary Shop Rules

1. The lapidary shop equipment may not be used by anyone who has not signed a liability waiver.
2. Shop equipment use flat fee is \$2.00 per hour. Sign in on arrival. Pay Supervisor and sign out before leaving the shop.
3. "Open shop" hours are to be used only by those who have taken the cabochon class or have shown proficiency on the equipment.
4. All children under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult trained on the use of the equipment.
5. Supervisor must inspect rock "set-up" prior to anyone starting slab saw.
6. Long hair should be tied back, loose sleeve should be secured, and safety procedures followed.
7. Safety glasses are recommended and are the responsibility of the individual. Some are furnished by the GCGMS, or you may bring your own.
8. The last person to use a piece of equipment before the shop closes is responsible for cleaning that piece of equipment and the work area. This may include tabletop, sponges, aprons, catch trays, etc.
9. Shop Supervisor is the final authority on shop rules and usage.

Revised May 2009



Shop News!

Remember, if you are interested in lapidary classes such as cabochon making or wire wrapping ask Mark, Jerrold or Hank. They are always happy to teach you.

Shop Supervisor: Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

Jerrold Simpson 361-851-8788 / Cell - 361-877-3073

Hank Swan 361-993-9861/361-857-2405

Lapidary Shop Keys

Lapidary Shop key masters are:

Shop Supervisor:
Mark Wolbrink 361-991-2495

Jerrold Simpson
361-851-8788 / Cell - 361-877-3073

Hank Swan 361-993-9861/361-857-2405



Please call one of these when you would like to use the shop. They will not all be available at the same time, and once in a while none of them will be available most of the time at least one of them should be able to work out a time and date the shop could be open for you. Remember the club has a lot of good equipment to use.

Several different classes are being conducted on Monday evening from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The shop is open during these times for use of the equipment even if you are not involved in a class. Shop is also open Saturday 9:00 Until Noon.



Next General Meeting
19th February 2013 at the
Museum of Science & History
1900 North Chaparral
Corpus Christi, Texas
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Upcoming Events

February 2013

- Feb 16-17 PLAINVIEW, TX**
Annual show; Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society; Ollie Liner Center; 2000 South Columbia, Business I-27 South; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children \$1; silent auction, kids' wheel, geode cutting, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, grand prize; contact Josephine Macha, 2298 FM 788, Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 293-8572; e-mail: josefcmacha@aol.com
- Feb 16-17 GEORGETOWN, TX:** 43rd show; Williams County Gem & Mineral Society; Community Center; San Gabriel Park, 445 E. Morrow St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; adults \$3, students (6-15) \$2, children (under 6) free; silent auction; contact Wanda Reynolds, 2100 Magazine St., Austin, TX 78727, (512) 461-0084; e-mail: dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com; Web site: www.wcgms.org
- Feb 23-24 PASADENA, TX:** Annual show, Clear Lake GMS, Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway (southeast of the Houston Metro area, 2.5 miles east of Beltway 8); \$5 for adults (good for both days of the show), \$1 for students ages 12 -17 and children are Free; includes a special program for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; www.clgms.org

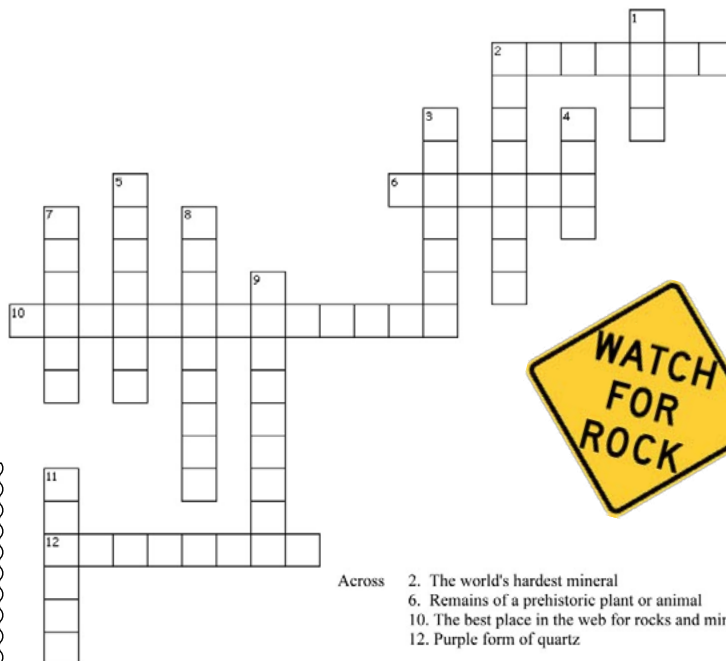
March 2013

- Mar 2-3 ROBSTOWN, TX:** Annual show; Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society; Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds; 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd., intersection of IH-37 and Hwy. 77; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (two-day pass), children (under 12) with adult and Scouts in uniform free; dealers, jewellery, minerals, fossils, meteorites, kids' wheel, Rock Food Table; contact Jerrold Simpson, PO Box 7786, Corpus Christi, TX 78466, (361) 877-3073; e-mail: jsimpson1@stx.rr.com; Web site: www.gcgms.org
- March 16-17 LIVE OAK, TX (San Antonio)** Southwest G&MS, Live Oak Civic Ctr. 8101 Pat Booker RD



Kids Corner Rocks

Crossword Puzzle Rocks and Minerals



ROCKS

- Rocks and stones are naturally occurring solids made up of minerals.
- The Earth's crust is made up of rock.
- Rocks have been used by humans for millions of years, from early tools and weapons through to various construction materials.
- There are three different types of rocks based on the way they form, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.
- When magma cools and solidifies it forms igneous rock.
- Examples of igneous rocks include granite, basalt, gabbro, obsidian and pumice. More igneous rock facts.
- Sediment deposited over time, often as layers at the bottom of lakes and oceans, forms sedimentary rocks.
- Examples of sedimentary rocks include sandstone, mudstone, flint, greywacke and chalk. More sedimentary rock facts.
- Extreme pressure and heat over time forms metamorphic rocks.
- Examples of metamorphic rocks include marble, quartzite, schist, granulite and slate. More metamorphic rock facts.
- The metamorphic rock marble is formed from the sedimentary rock limestone.
- The metamorphic rock granulite is formed from the igneous rock basalt.

source: <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/earth/rocksandminerals.html>

- Across
- 2. The world's hardest mineral
 - 6. Remains of a prehistoric plant or animal
 - 10. The best place in the web for rocks and minerals
 - 12. Purple form of quartz
- Down
- 1. Black rock formed from plant material
 - 2. Extinct animals that once ruled the Earth
 - 3. The study of the Earth
 - 4. Soft mineral
 - 5. Igneous rock used for countertops
 - 7. Salty mineral
 - 8. Common rock for finding fossils
 - 9. Forms of minerals often used for jewelry
 - 11. The most common mineral



.....
 : What did the sea say to the shore?
 : Nothing, it just waved.
 :



Igneous Rock



This photo shows a chunk of gneiss, a metamorphic rock



A detailed photo of siltstone, a sedimentary rock



Check out some Cool Kids Links

- <http://www.kidsgeo.com>
- <http://www.rocksforkids.com>
- <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/fossils>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/beasts/fossilfun/>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/prehistoric_life/games/
- <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/inverts>
- <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/rocks/index>

NEWS from the SCFMS!*From the SCFMS Newsletter Page 08 January - February 2013***FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA****An Honor Roll**

Kids participating in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program symbolically graduate from "future rockhound" to "full rockhound" status if they complete and earn at least 6 of the 15 individual badges offered within the program. To recognize and reward them for this accomplishment, they earn a Rockhound Badge. Following is our Honor Roll of kids, from the South Central Federation, who have attained this status.

GULF COAST G&M SOC. JUNIOR ROCKERS JUNE 20, 2012

Austin Adams
 Dylan Bailey
 Hunter Carver
 Reagan Carver
 Ashley Hooten
 Grace Hooten
 Abigail Johnston
 Joseph Johnston
 Ransom Johnston
 Sarah Johnston
 Stephen Johnston
 Jarrett Kernen
 Graham King
 Elizabeth Longo
 Victoria Longo
 Emma Perez
 Jacob White

**AFMS/FRA BADGE PROGRAM**

The American Federation started the AFMS/FRA Badge Program. They now have twenty different badges for the students entering the Badge Program. They have the Membership Patch and a special Rockhound Badge, which is received upon joining. The following is a list that Future Rockhounds can earn:

- Rocks and Minerals
- Earth Resources
- Fossils
- Lapidary Arts
- Collecting
- Showmanship
- Communication
- Field Trips
- Leadership
- Earth Processes
- Earth in Space
- Gold Panning and Prospecting
- Gemstones Lore and Legend
- Stone Age Tools and Art
- Rocking on the Computer
- World in Miniature
- Special Effects
- Fluorescent Minerals
- Maps
- Reaching Across Generations

To learn more about the program, log onto the AFMS Website -- www.amfed.org -- click onto the Kids Corner. Then click onto Merit Badge Program.

MEMBER of

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



South Central Federation of Mineral Societies, Inc.



Meeting

Held the **third Tuesday** of each month at **6:30 pm** at the museum of Science & History, 1900 North Chaparral September through May, and at the Lapidary Shop, 3933 Timon Blvd., Corpus Christi TX for **June through August**.

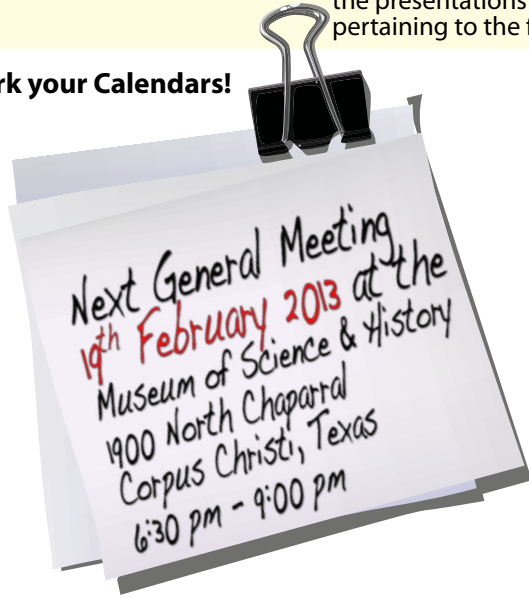
Membership Fees

Annual fees: Individuals \$15.00, Couples \$20.00, Junior (under 17) \$5.00

Purpose

The objective and purpose of the society is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy, the earth sciences and the lapidary arts. To encourage study in these subjects through the means of: presentation of public exhibitions, field trips for exploration, study and collection of specimens, the presentations of lectures, illustrated programs, demonstrations and similar programs pertaining to the fields of mineralogy, earth sciences and the lapidary arts.

Mark your Calendars!



WWW

Visit us on our website www.gcgms.org



we are also on Facebook, come and 'like' us on there as well!

Next board meeting
5 March 2013
at the Lapidary Shop
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Slabs & Cabs
Sylvia Kernen
3942 FM 1781
Rockport TX 78382

Slabs & Cabs Awards



2003 SCFMS
Small Bulletins 4th place

PUBLICATION

2002 2nd
2001 1st
2001-4th place AFMS
2000 9th place SCFMS
1999-8th place SCFMS
1999- 9th place (new editor) AFMS

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