

EFMLS NEWS

Information for members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies



"M" AWARDS ANNOUNCED

by Loren Patterson, EFMLS 2nd Vice President

It gives me great pleasure to announce the names of the clubs who are the winners of the EFMLS "M" Awards.



Each of these clubs has shown the most membership growth during 2007 based on club information sent in when renewing their federation membership this year.

Matt Charsky initiated the "M" Awards in 2002 when he served as EFMLS 2nd Vice President and it's now become a tradition. Three clubs are recognized annually - clubs having 50 or more members, a second for those with less than 50 members and a third for the club having the greatest increase in their Junior membership. Normally given during the EFMLS Awards Banquet, the presentation of the "M" Awards was delayed this year due to the very

early date of the convention. It's obvious that these clubs are doing lots of things right!

I'm pleased to announce the "M" Award winners for 2008:

Large club - 50 or more members:
Berks Mineralogical Society
Robesonia, PA (Region III)
membership increase - 68.8%

Small club - less than 50 members:
Gem & Mineral Hunters of Virginia
Winchester, VA (Region IV)
membership increase - 150%

Greatest increase in Junior membership:
Penobscot Mineral & Lapidary Club
Bangor, ME (Region I)
junior membership increase - 3,000%
(the club went from 0 junior members in 2007 to 30 in 2008!)

Each club will receive an engraved trophy along with our congratulations.

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June-July

WELCOME!

MONROE COUNTY
EARTH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
STROUDSBURG, PA

INFORMATION ON PAGE 3

IT'S VACATION TIME!

from Ye Olde Editor

This is the last EFMLS News issue until September. The next newsletter deadline is August 1. In the meantime, your Editorial Staff (Sir Barkley Bigfoot, Caesar the GoFer and Ye Olde Ed) wish everyone a safe and happy summer.



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EFMLS OFFICERS 2005-2006



ELLERY BOROW
PRESIDENT

<ebkc699keta@gwi.net>

MARY BATEMAN
1st VICE PRESIDENT

<mbateman1@verizon.net>

LOREN PATTERSON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

<lorenpatterson@gmss.us>

CATHY PATTERSON
SECRETARY

<cathypatterson@gmss.us>

LOU BUDELL
TREASURER

<labudell@windstream.net>

LAREENE HEATH
ASSISTANT TREASURER

609-586-6686

CAROLYN WEINBERGER
EDITOR

PO Box 302

GLYNDON, MD 21071-0302

410-833-7926

<cscryystals2@verizon.net>

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WE MISSED YOU!

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS President



Greetings! How are you? I'm still doing a bit of Spring cleaning and catching up. One of the items on my to do list is to mention that we missed you at the EFMLS Annual Meeting in Jackson back in February! Possibly due to snow storms, icy roads, and spate of severe storms in the east, we had a lower than usual attendance at our annual meeting.

The Jackson meeting was filled with a number of important votes for EFMLS officers, bylaw changes, adoption of a budget, and a membership dues increases. Prior to the formal meeting we held our usual informal cracker barrel session to talk about the items up for vote. At both the cracker barrel and the main meeting there was a distinct lack of club voices. We missed you!

As you know the president of every EFMLS club is automatically a Director in the EFMLS. If the Director is unable to attend Federation meetings, another person may be appointed to stand in and vote as a Director's alternate. Did you know that your club is also entitled to an additional vote? The club may have another vote at the Annual Meeting by choosing and sending a club Delegate, and Delegate Alternate. The Alternate may cast votes if the Delegate is unable to attend. Each Federation club has two votes!

As they say - "But wait, there's more!" If no Director, Delegate or Alternates from a club are able to attend, clubs have another resource for making their voice heard - a Regional Vice President who represents the interests of their region at Federation gatherings. If your club cannot send a representative you have a Regional Vice President who wants to hear your ideas and opinions. There is a Regional Vice President to represent each of the 8 regions of the EFMLS. The Regional VP's are a means of communicating from your club and area, to the EFMLS. Unfortunately, as a resource to your club the Regional Vice President's are somewhat underutilized.

Just who is this Eastern Federation anyway? Why is it important to vote at its meetings? The Federation is not some nebulous body sitting on high and issuing edicts and insurance. The Federation is made up of folks from its member clubs. Every officer and every member of every committee, are members of EFMLS member clubs. The Federation is a corporation so, technically speaking, the EFMLS is an it. However, I like to think of the Federation as a we. We are the Federation. Personally, I am currently the president of my home club in Waterville, Maine. Our recent past EFMLS President, Fran Sick, who by the way also coined the new EFMLS motto, "Communication and Involvement are the Keys to Our Success", was also (and still is) the president of the Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club.

You see, we, that's all of us, we all make up the Federation. It is important for everyone to have a voice in this organization. As Fran said - Communication and *Involvement* are the Keys to Our Success. This month's great idea is to ask that every club do what they can to participate in the Federation... and make sure you talk with your Regional Vice President about what's important to your club! We are all here to work together to make our clubs better. Everyone in the "Federation" is also a member of a club like yours, or maybe even a member of your club!

Let's talk and let's keep those great ideas coming.
Ellery

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

by Hazel Remaley, EFMLS Chair



Well, folks, here we are in summer. Even tho summer doesn't start til June 21st, we consider anything after Memorial Day as summer. Hope your field trips are many, safe and productive.

Have you ever thought about the folks who do the research on those trips, tell you what you will find, and then show you specimens from the locale? In a way they are teaching. Not that field trip leading is a category that really can be considered for the Each One Teach One Award. BUT, that is the kind of person we are looking for you to nominate. But after the field trip, they may present a program on the trip.

Who in your club gives programs at your meetings, libraries, scout troops, senior citizens groups (yes, they really get a kick out of those pretty stones) and lots of other organizations. Who has the talent to teach wire-wrapping, cabbing, and other lapidary skills? These are the members I am looking forward to hearing about. Look around, observe. Then when the time comes, nominate that person. I hate to sound like a broken record (yep, I remember those round disks and their players), but the time has come to put your thinking caps on.

Watch for more information and the nomination form. No changes from last year that I know of...

SPRING HOUSECLEANING

by Pat Pitkin, EFMLS All American Chair



It's time for Spring Housecleaning. Get out those New Year's Resolutions and Dust them off. Sort through your photos and save some good shots to include in your next All-American Competition Notebook. Grab your friends and select a spot to gather your information so it will be easier to organize. People naturally forget to pass on their information so Designate a person or group of persons to be "Personal Naggers" to follow through on collecting documentation for things your club is doing, both at meetings and in the community. Gossip is good when you can get some meat to fill that Notebook sandwich with tasty morsels. Remember This Competition is for the Happenings in 2007. Surely you did Something of Note this year in your Club activities. This is not just Grandma's Brag Book; we want to see Everything you did!

In tight times, the government finds ways to contaminate our natural resources by saying we need more energy supplies. They will also limit our access to our favorite collecting areas. You do have a voice in their vote. Be sure to write your government representatives and let them know your opinions. Save a copy for your notebook to show We do care about the world around us.

Scholarships are also a way we can influence the future by encouraging our students to care for this big blue marble. Every little bit helps. Together we can make a difference.

WELCOME ABOARD!

from Loren Patterson, 2nd Vice President

MONROE COUNTY EARTH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (Region III)

Club Address: 1116 Oak St; Cresco, PA 18326
38 Adults Organized: 2007 Joined EFMLS: 2008
PRESIDENT: Michael Rose, 116 Oak St; Cresco, PA 18326
570-595-3786 <PoconoRose@peoplepc.com>
VICE PRES: Myra Trumpaltzky, PO Box 274; Mountain Home, PA 18342
570-595-6082 <mybenka!ptd.net>
SECRETARY: Janice & James Hadley, PO Box 790;
Dingman's Ferry, PA 18328
570-828-8164 <savage@ptd.net>
TREASURER: Robert Turkos, 2011 N Fifth St; Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-420-8165 <RETRKS1@hotmail.com>
EDITOR: Michael Kessler, 4 Longfellow Rd, E; Stroudsburg, PA 18301
570-421-3113 <Quartz7228@aol.com>
BULLETIN: The Crystal Courier
MEETINGS: 1st Wednesday of month at 7 P.M.
Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg, PA

AFMS ENDOWMENT DRAWING

from Joy Bourne

As in years past, interest from the AFMS Endowment Fund is being put to good use on projects that will benefit all the regional federations and subsequently all of their clubs and members (hey, that's US). This year, for example, \$2,000 has been set aside to convert some of the AFMS slide programs to DVD's so that they will be preserved. Slides do fade and deteriorate over time and this was deemed an excellent way of insuring that they will be available in the future.

With interest rates being low, it's important for us to continue adding revenues to the Endowment Fund principal. For the past several years, the main fund raising endeavor has been via a drawing...and this year is no exception. Thus far we have 10 wonderful prizes, two of them donated by EFMLS members.

The first, a hand engraved vase was created by Jay Bowman. Many of you know Jay from Wildacres where he's taught Exhibiting and Judging and Gem ID for many years and always donates one of his fabulous vases to the auction there. The estimated value of the vase is \$225.



The second prize donated by an EFMLS member is a 10.5 carat London Blue CZ faceted by EFMLS and AFMS Past President Steve Weinberger. Steve also teaches faceting at Wildacres and is chair of the WA Functioning



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Betsy Oberheim, Junior Activities Chair

Gem or Your: Names

You may have seen the postcards with the name of a city or state with scenes from that place inside the letters. This is fun to do with your pebblepups; they can do their own names, or the names of a mine or location, or even the mineral or rock itself.

You will need some old mineral magazines to cut up (or color copy some pages from a good rock manual or website). Also you need scissors, paste, 2 pieces of paper for each person.

Start with the name; print it large in capital letters on a piece of paper or tagboard, black is very effective. Thicken the letters by outlining them, many kids are good at "bubble letters", and cut them out; preserving the outside of the paper; this is the important part! For letters like B and O, you will need to save that area inside, or ignore it for more space to display the background, or stencil the letter with small bridges to hold it in. Generally, though, they leave it open for bigger vistas. When they cut out the letters; a small pointy scissors is a help or if you have an exacto knife; make a slit to insert the scissors to cut around the letter.

Once the letters are cut out; trace them lightly on the background sheet. This will be your guide to cover with the cut-out pictures of rocks, gems, etc. When the pencil outlines are all covered and the letters filled, simply paste the cutout sheet on top and you have a really neat sign. Depending on how complicated the names and background becomes; this project could take one or two hours. As with all projects; try it yourself! That way you can estimate the timing, know what you need, and have a sample to show so the kids know what they are getting into.



committee The pendant is set in 14k gold. Estimated value is \$200.

Other prizes include a large selenite plate in an amethyst pipe, faceted topaz, New Zealand Kauri Gum, Amethyst cathedral, a vial of Virgin Valley opal, a digital scale, copper specimen with mining stock certificate, and a charoite pendant. And, I've been promised even more prizes in the next few weeks. You can see full color images along with descriptions of each prize by visiting the AFMS website <www.amfed.org/endow2008.htm>

The drawing will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2008 during

the Awards Banquet at the AFMS Convention in Humble, TX. Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased by sending stamped self-addressed envelope and a check (payable to AFMS Endowment) to

Joy Bourne
RR#1, Box 159A
Towanda, PA 18848

or
Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

or
or see your Regional Federation VP

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Region I
Kathleen Collins
<kathleenc55@cox.net>

Region III
Hazel Remaley
<northridge@infoblvd.net>

Region V
Judy Budnik
<wisoh@msn.com>

Region VII
Betty James
<mineralid@jam.rr.com>

Region II
Michael Kessler
<quartz7228@aol.com>

Region IV
Dee Tinsley
<flydeetin@gmail.com>

Region VI
Doub Dover
<ddover@carolina.rr.com>

Region VIII
Barbara Ringhiser
<bar5678@aol.com>

EFMLS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AFMS Endowment Fund *
Joy Bourne
<csprings@epix.net>

Conservation & Legislation *
Clyf Bourne
<csprings@epix.net>

Show Coordinator
Matt Charsky
(See Convention Advisory)

Wildacres - Continued
Director
Wayne Sukow
<d8olite@fastmail.fm>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation *
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Convention Advisory
Matt Charsky
<Charsky,Matthew@epamail.epa.gov>

Slide & Video Librarian *
Ken Tudor
<kentudor@yahoo.com>

Registrar
Barbara Edge
<barbara.edge@gmail.com>

AFMS Ways & Means *
To be appointed

Directory
Carolyn Weinberger (see Editor)

Supplies
Merrill Dickinson
<medsearchnorth@comcast.net>

Nominating (Elected committee)

All American Award *
Pat Pitkin
<pitkind@earthlink.net>

Each One Teach One
Hazel Remaley
<northridge2@earthlink.net>

Uniform Rules
Susanna MacInnis
<sumacndeb@aol.com>

Reivan Zeleznik, Chair
<rzlapidary@yahoo.com>

Auction
Bruce Gaber
<bg@his.com>

Eastern Foundation Fund
Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Ways & Means
To be appointed

Esther Dunn
334-774-2172

Audit
Donald Pitkin
<pitkind@earthlink.net>

Education - All American *
Pat Pitkin
<thornyoldrose@gmail.com>

Webmaster
Dan Imel
<lapidry@aol.com>

Barbara Fenstermacher
<bfenster2@bellsouth.net>

K.C. Foster
<katrinkaper@hotmail.com>

Boundaries *
Carl Miller
<kobold1@erols.com>

Historian
Susanna MacInnis
<sumacndeb@aol.com>

Wildacres Workshop Functioning Committee
Steve Weinberger, Chair
<cscrystals2@verizon.net>

Sue MacInnis
<sumacndeb@aol.com>

Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Budget & Finance
Mary Bateman
<see page 2>

Insurance Coordinator
Carl Miller
<kobold1@erols.com>

B. J. Bowman
<bjb@wildblue.net>

Jim Doran
<jpdoran@comcast.net>

Bill Klose
<seagoatc@epix.net>

Bulletin Editors Advisory *
Natalie Darling
<gmsleditor@adelphia.net>

Junior Activities *
Betsy Oberheim
<aoberheim3@comcast.net>

Karen Lewis
703-243-5823

Bylaws
Steve Weinberger
<cscrystals2@verizon.net>

Operating Procedures
Steve Weinberger
<cscrystals2@verizon.net>

Carl Miller
<kobold1@erols.com>

Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Club Rockhound of the Year *
Mary Fraser
<rfraser@maine.rr.com>

Parliamentarian
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws)

Safety *
Jim Doran
<jpdoran1@verizon.net>



VISIT THE EFMLS WEBSITE
<www.amfed.org.efmls>

VISIT A SHOW

from Matt Charsky

May:

17-18: 40th Annual World of Gems & Minerals sponsored by the Berks Mineralogical Society. Leesport Farmers Market Banquet Hall, Leesport, PA.

24: 19th Annual Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. NEW LOCATION: Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (MD 45 just off I-695); Towson, MD.

June:

7 - 8: Orange County Mineral Society Annual Swap & Sell sponsored by the Orange County Mineral Society. Museum Village, Monroe, NY

7-8: 35th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, Birmingham, AL

July:

12-13: 42nd Annual GemWorld sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. New York State Fairgrounds (Verizon Center of Progress Bldg.), Syracuse, NY

12-13: 47th Annual Western Main, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Festival sponsored by Oxford County Mineral & Gem Association. Telstar Regional High School, Bethel, ME

19-20: 30th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem city Rock & Mineral Society. JMC Ice Arena, Erie, PA.

26-27: 29th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Burlington Gem & Mineral Club. Tuttle Middle School, So. Burlington, VT.

August:

2 - 3: 38th Mid-State Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Water-Oak Gem & Mineral Society. Mt. Merici School, Waterville, ME

2 - 3: 59th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Gem, Lapidary & Mineral Society of Washington, DC. Stone Ridge School, Bethesda, MD

September

13-14: 43rd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club NEW LOCATION: Eagle View Middle School, Mechanicsburg, PA

27-28: 43rd Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters' Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, MD 32 at I-70; West Friendship, MD

27-28: 52nd Annual Franklin-Sterling Hill Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show sponsored by the Franklin Mineral Museum. Franklin School, Washington Av; Franklin, NJ..

October:

18-19: 36th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral club. Beals Community Center, Bristol, CT.

18-19: 34th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Kanawa Rock & Gem Club. So. Charleston Community Center, South Charleston, WV

18-19: Mineral-Fossil-Jewelry-Gem-Gift Show & Sale sponsored by the Fulton County Mineral Club. Johnstown Moose Lodge, Rt 30A and Rt 67, Johnstown, NY.

25: Ultraviolation 2008 Fluorescent Mineral Show sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Co. First United Methodist Church, Fairless Hills, PA.

25-26: 36th Annual Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show sponsored by the Rochester Academy of Science Mineral Section and Rochester Lapidary Society. Minet Hall, Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, Henrietta, NY

If you are an EFMLS member club and would like to have your show or swap listed here, send information to Matt Charsky, EFMLS Show Coordinator at 2430 N Glebe Rd; Arlington, VA 22207 or e-mail at <Charsky.Matthew@epa.gov>.