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# A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Volume 60, Number 7  
June, 2007

## HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

### MAPPING

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

As part of my continuing effort to come up with ideas for new badges for our FRA badge program, it's been suggested to me to consider a unit on mapping: what maps are and how to read them. Maps are an essential tool in the rockhound's toolbox as we hit the road to locate the perfect gem or fossil. With that in mind, here are thoughts about possible activities to teach your club's kids about maps:

The different types of maps. Not all maps are created equal. Teach your junior members about the different types of maps and the stories each tells, from atlases and geopolitical maps showing national, state, and county boundaries, roads, significant landmarks, etc., that help us get from here to there...to geologic maps showing different formations and rock types in colorful banded patterns...to topographic maps with their wavy lines indicating hills and basins, mountains and valleys. Teach the basics of how to read each sort of map.

Making maps. Hold a map-making workshop with your juniors to make maps of different sorts. For instance, you might lead them in making a geographic map of their own neighborhood to show how to get from home to school, or a field trip map to show how to get to a favorite collecting locality. Make a miniature hilly landscape out of moist sand in a tub and insert toothpicks at different levels, with all the toothpicks of specific levels joined by different colored strings to give kids a better appreciation of what the wavy lines on a topographic map help us visualize. Have them sketch a 2-dimensional topographic map using

the toothpicks and strings on your miniature 3-dimensional landscape to guide them.

Sources of maps. Help kids

learn how to access maps, from the corner gas station convenience store selling roadmaps, to libraries and university geology departments with their large, oversized geological maps in big, flat drawers. And teach them about major sources and publishers of maps, such as geological surveys, Rand McNally, DeLorme, The Thomas Guides, National Geographic, etc.

Using GPS. I confess this is a lesson I myself need to take (I always seem to operate about 10 years behind when it comes to the latest technology). But with GPS coordinates increasingly showing up in guidebooks, and with entire books now consisting of tables of GPS coordinates (like David A. Kelty's *The GPS Guide to Western Gem Trails*), rockhounds of tomorrow need to learn the technology of today.

Maps on the Web. Speaking of the technology of today, take your juniors to a computer terminal to explore the possibilities afforded by Google Earth (<http://earth.google.com>). This amazing tool combines the power of Google Search with satellite imagery, maps, terrain, and 3D buildings. Among the range of possibilities suggested on the web site: "fly" to one of your junior member's homes by typing in the address and pressing "search" to zoom right in. Get driving directions to a park or natural history museum. Tilt and rotate the view on a Google Earth map to see terrain and buildings in 3D.

As you can see, between GPS and tools like Google Earth, mapping has become the stuff of amazement. Such a unit could be the perfect sort of activity for helping kids find their way while, as always, having fun!



## LAST CALL FOR ROSWELL!

from Howie Whiting, Convention Advisor

All the plans have been made and reservations received. Now all that's missing from the 2007 AFMS/RMFMS Convention and show is the arrival of the aliens (that's YOU).



The Chaparral Rockhounds are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the BIG event that will be held from June 5 - 10 in Roswell, New Mexico. We've lots of special activities planned for the week and few days after including a New Mexico Mineral Symposium, field trips, Editor's Breakfast and Awards Banquet PLUS we're helping to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the AFMS with several special activities on Thursday evening and during the Awards Banquet.

Although the deadline is past for making reservations, it's not too late for you to "just come" and join the fun. We may be able to find a few tickets for the meal functions, all the meetings are open to all who wish to attend and the show will be wonderful! We look forward to seeing you in Roswell.

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### SUMMER BREAK!

THE NEXT AFMS NEWSLETTER WILL  
BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER.

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

VISIT THE AFMS WEBSITE

<[WWW.AMFED.ORG](http://WWW.AMFED.ORG)>



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SEVEN REGIONAL



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## YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS...

by Dr. Robert Carlson, AFMS President

Well folks, this is the last reminder that the AFMS Show and Convention will be held in Roswell, New Mexico. That is NEW MEXICO, not Old Mexico. Yes, we are one of the fifty United States. If you don't already have reservations, get them now! This is the first AFMS Convention in Roswell, but they have hosted several RMFMS conventions over the years, and there has always been a surprise event. Sometimes it was created by Nature, sometimes by an extra-terrestrial force. Some feel that it was both. Whatever the source, the fun was foremost. If you don't attend the show in Roswell, you will be missing one of the great ones.

On another note, I receive club bulletins from all over the United States, and I am amazed and awed by the width and breadth of the activities in which the clubs are involved. There are at least two clubs that operate a Museum. Many of the clubs have bulletins that contain articles that are of such scientific depth that I have to get out my dictionary to understand what they are talking about.

This is a large and diversified organization. Each club has its own special interests, some are oriented toward fossils, some towards lapidary, and some are mineral collectors. Whatever their primary focus, successful clubs tend to have several things in common. First, they embrace a broad range of activities and interests. They generally have a newsletter, and an annual show. Field trips are a must, whether it be for collecting, or for education - such as visiting museums. Lastly, and perhaps most important, they cater to Juniors; whether it be a Juniors organization within the club, outreach to schools and/or other Juniors organizations such as Scouting, or special Juniors activities at their annual Show.

Successful clubs try to get the public involved in their activities, especially the younger people.

Is your club a successful club?

**Bob**



## SPECIAL PEOPLE GIVE SPECIAL GIFTS!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Chair

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge a number of gifts received by the AFMS Endowment Fund from individuals, clubs and special committees across the entire AFMS community during this year.

JoAnne and Wendell Mohr  
Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society  
of Montgomery Co., MD  
continued their annual gifting by sending us their usual check in early January this year.

Generous gifts were also received from three AFMS clubs this spring:

We received checks from  
Juan A. Proano  
on behalf of the  
Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society  
of Montgomery Co., MD

and

John Deysher  
treasurer for the  
Che-Hanna Rock & Mineral Club of Sayre PA,

The third club gift was sent by  
Kirsh Standberg  
from the  
Reno Gem & Mineral Society  
Sparks, NV.

In addition

Gene Maggard  
RMFMS Treasurer  
sent us contributions from the RMFMS Stamp  
Committee who sent gifts he received from local  
club Stamp Committee representatives

Carolyn J. Syska  
for the Chapparal Rockhounds Roswell, NM,

and  
Marvin Lundquist  
for the McPherson, KS club.

We are truly grateful to you all fine folks for your outstanding support of the AFMS Endowment Fund during the first six months of 2007.

By the time you read this, the 2007 Endowment Fund drawing will be just a few days away. If you missed seeing your local Regional committee representative, you will still have one more chance to get in on the action. We will be stationed at the Endowment Fund booth throughout the opening days of the big RMFMS Show at the Roswell Civic Center for those last minute ticket purchases. If you have not yet seen the pictures and descriptions of our 2007 prize offerings, we remind you that they can be seen on the AFMS website at <www.amfed.org>.

We'll look forward to seeing you in Roswell.





## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

from Shirley Leeson, AFMS President-Elect

This month I'd like to focus on the AFMS Endowment Fund. It was started in 1984 at the meeting in San Diego, California. The Directors decided to create a fund to help the Federation. This Fund was initially created to have extra money for projects that didn't come under "daily expenses." At that time the AFMS was getting \$.25 per member from the regional federations and the ends weren't meeting. There were hardly any new programs that could be funded. So Charlie Leach was appointed Chair and quickly enlisted the aid of Bill Cox, then AFMS President from South Central and Henry Bonar, Past President of the AFMS. They put together a program to win the hearts and money of everyone who attended the AFMS convention and show each year. They also sold mineral posters, and eventually fossil posters too, thanks to Glen Lee of Northwest, who took on

this part of the project. Charlie had articles in each AFMS Newsletter asking for help and money. It went along building up a nice nest egg and suddenly there was "MONEY" in the pot. What to do with it. There were lots of ideas but Charlie and his committee sifted through each one, casting aside many until the AFMS Junior Chair asked for money for "Future Rockhound of America" badges for the juniors. This softened the pocket book and money was lent. It was used to create patches. Clubs could purchase them for their junior members. The patches eventually paid for themselves, and the fund kept growing....

Then the AFMS Programs Chair came up with a plan to offer cash prizes for the best slide program in several categories. This was a good use of the funds because the AFMS and the regional federations would reap the benefits of the programs for their federation libraries. Everyone was happy and the committee continued to enlist help in making the fund continue to grow. The Fund asked for donations for prizes to be drawn during the AFMS Convention, as now the donations came from all the federations, with gentle arm twisting from the committee of past presidents, chairmen, and other dignitaries aligned with the AFMS.

Charlie Leach retired November 1, 1999, and Lewis Elrod took the reigns for two years and then turned it over to Dee Holland. Dee held it for two years and then was elected President of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

And the Fund went on... The Endowment Fund was asked to fund the Judges Training Program on a limited basis in 2002, and was eventually made a permanent program, with the Endowment Fund taking up the cost.

Another successful program was launched in 2003, but needed funding and the Endowment Fund came to the rescue. The very successful Junior Merit Badge was born with the help of Jim Brace-Thompson and is continuing with funding from the Fund.

At this point in the story a small petite woman stepped forward and took the reins of the Endowment Fund. She was asked, "Can you do the job?" Her response was, "YES, I CAN!" Truer words were never spoken. JOY BOURNE stepped up to the plate and rolled up her sleeves and began one of the most successful fund raising projects that's been seen in ages. With her strong but low key approach, people were gladly donating wonderful things to be won at the AFMS Show and Convention each year. With the help of people like Joyce Speed of South Central, Bural Larue of California and Rocky McCall of Northwest, they were able to bring forth items from many prominent artists and collectors. She enlisted the aid of many of the AFMS Past Presidents and regional Past Presidents and chairmen, they dug deep into their collections and came forward with items of real interest. Her husband Clyf, a photographer extraordinaire, took pictures of all the items and put them, along with a write-up on who donated them, and information on the items themselves, to the AFMS Newsletter editor for publication. The AFMS Webmaster also put the pictures up on the web, but these were in color. There was widespread interest with people sending money so they could be included in the drawings even though they couldn't attend the convention and show.

Joy has been doing this since 2004. It has taken a toll on her and Clyf, they have both worked very hard on this project and when it finally comes to show time each year they stay in the booth and meet and greet everyone interested in the project. And as they are packing up to go home after the show, they are already starting to bring together items that have been offered for the next year. It's a never ending process and Joy and Clyf have handled it with good cheer.

You might think this is Joy's only project, hardly. She's served as AFMS Fifth Vice President in 2004, Second Vice President in 2006. She's held numerous positions in the Eastern Federation including the EFMLS President, for two terms. Some of her experience in fund raising came from her chairing the Eastern Foundation Fund. All this in Eastern Federation, culminating in receiving Eastern's highest award, The EFMLS Citation Award.

Joy has also served her local club faithfully for many years and is currently their bulletin editor. And she serves on the club's "Planner" Committee. Joy and Clyf have a large family, children and grandchildren.

But I remember Joy, fondly, for the porch sessions rocking in the famous rocking chairs after all the days events are over at Wildacres. This is one special LADY!

The AFMS Endowment Fund is in good hands...BUT, Joy will be stepping into the roll of AFMS President-Elect in 2007-2008. She will stay on the Endowment Fund for that year, but there must be someone to step into her shoes the following year.



### Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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

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### CONTENT — LETTERS

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ANY COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OR FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR:

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## AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Cathy Gaber, AFMS Chair



### Eastern Federation

We would like to honor **Thomas Tucker** as the 2007 AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year for the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. Tom joined MNCA in 1996 and has always been a generous contributor of mineral specimens, especially to the club's annual micro conference. We always looked forward to the many boxes of minerals from Montana. Tom has been the enthusiastic president of MNCA for the last four years. He encourages participation in club meetings and conducts lively mini auctions. Besides the president's message, Tom writes informative articles for the Mineral Mite and other club newsletters and encourages members and non members to write articles for the club newsletter. He leads an occasional club field trip: wire pyrite from Sugar Grove, West Virginia comes to mind. Tending the booth for MNCA at many club shows is always a job he enjoys, demonstrating with the microscope and setting up a display case for the club. He prepares good club workshop programs and gets good speakers. He presents programs for MNCA and other clubs, and he will be teaching geology at Wildacres. His enthusiasm and leadership is endless. He even brings in new members. Tom is a great asset in keeping a small club going..

submitted by Georgia Olmstead, Editor



### Rocky Mountain Federation

**Tom and Willogene Morris** of the Shawnee Gem and Mineral Society (Oklahoma) are the kind of members who have done so many things for the club that most members are unaware of. Willogene is a past President and is now Vice President. She keeps track of and turns in the number of members present at each meeting, enabling the club to meet in a larger room at the library. She also found us a new meeting place when we lost our old meeting place. Tom is a past Treasurer. He published the club directory and prints the mailing labels for our newsletter. Tom also helped the current Editor get and learn to operate a new computer, replacing our old typewriter. Using donations, Tom conducts our door prize auction (at \$1 per chance) allowing us to continue supporting the scholarship program. Tom and Willogene demonstrate spear making using his homemade spear machine at other clubs. I recommend them for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year award.

submitted by George Finley, Editor



### Southeast Federation

The Panama City Gem & Minerals Society (Florida) would like to nominate one of the founders of our club, **Allen "Al" Zar**, as AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year. Throughout the years, Al has served in all elected officer slots, including multiple terms as club President. Since the early 80's, he has taught over 100 students in the lapidary art of silversmithing while using his own personal residence for the classroom two nights a week. In addition, Al has long been the show chairman for our February club show, which is always a success. The annual club auction and twice yearly bingo are always worthwhile and fun events thanks to Al's directions and involvement. In short, Al Zar is the glue that keeps this club together. His commitment and dedication make him a most deserving candidate for Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by Herb Whittington  
on behalf of the club members

## RUSSELL KEMP, JR

### AFMS PRESIDENT - 1979

Russ Kemp, passed away suddenly on April 14, 2007. Bor in Illinois, he served in the Pacific Theater during WW II and then worked as a pharmaceutical chemical salesman until retiring in 1983.

He held many positions with the Midwest Federation before becoming AFMS President. Always an educator, he was a 1990 inductee in the National Rockhound Hall of Fame. Perhaps though he was best known for his long association with the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Elmhurst, IL where he served on the Board of Directors (1962 -2002) and edited the museum newsletter.

He is survived by three sons and three grandchildren. His wife Doris passed away in 2006.

Contributions in Russ Kemp's memory may be made to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation % of your Regional Federation Coordinator.



## BE SAFE - BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

### POISON !!!

The skull and crossbones symbol always intrigued me as a kid. I always thought about pirate ships and other exciting things and my hero was Errol Flynn. My dad constantly warned me about touching anything that had the skull and crossbones label on it. On the farm we had a large variety of poisons for the mice in the barn as well as pesticides and herbicides and a set of hazards that you don't see much anymore. These other hazards were in a couple of old trunks that had belonged to my grandfather who was a doctor and the county health officer and included medicines, chemicals and tubes containing the residue of the lab work such as dried-up specimens. I realized later that this was some really bad stuff.

The world has become infinitely more complicated and we are learning that there is much more bad stuff out there. Even our peanut butter is not safe as some of it contains salmonella and some of the green healthy vegetables may have e-coli. Where will it end?

Do you do lapidary work or metal work making jewelry? Are you familiar with cadmium and the severe health effects resulting from exposure to cadmium and its fumes? Cadmium is found in many solders and many fluxes and really should be avoided. There are fluxes that contain fluoride and not totally safe to use. Do you use any tools made from beryllium and its alloys? It is not good for you! The jury is still out on the potential health effects of aluminum. There are those that say that there is a connection between using aluminum cookware and the incidence of Alzheimer's. Coated cookware is suspected to be a hazard if used after the coating has begun to fail and copper cookware that is losing the coating of nickel or whatever is used. Supposedly the bare copper surface will react to some foods. Am I simply perpetuating an urban legend or are the cautions pertaining to cookware well founded? I do not know but we will still stay with cast iron and stainless steel.

Do you have a Geiger Counter or some other instrument for detecting radiation? If you have one, do you use it? Some years ago there was some imported silver scrap and sheet that was "hot". It was radioactive and a point of concern. I cannot verify this story and it supposedly happened some time ago and the material is probably no longer on the market. There are, however, some mineral specimens that you should not put under your pillow at night just like the old "bag" cell phones that are no longer on the market. While we are talking about specimens, are you familiar with the minerals that have an unhealthy level of arsenic? Some minerals will rub a dangerous amount on your hands when you handle them. Since I am not writing a book, I cannot tell you a lot that you need to know about minerals but I do encourage you to do a little research and be particularly cautious when you are dealing with material that you do not customarily use.

Do you have pets such as cats or dogs? Have you heard about the contaminated pet food? Are you concerned? I, for one, am absolutely furious that anyone would put profit ahead of the well being of our trusting pets who are always glad to see us when we return home and never criticize us or pass judgment unless we forget to do our duty such as feed or walk with them or whatever we are supposed to do. This last thing is something that I just heard about from my proofreader (wife). She heard that some of the pre-moistened, disposable, mop pads cause liver problems in animals. It is reported that the pet gets the chemical on their paws and then lick their paws. Look at the packaging for a cautionary note regarding children and extend this warning to the pets.

There are so many bad things going on that we all must develop a skeptical attitude about everything and be constantly vigilant. Hazards are everywhere.