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# A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

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

Volume 61, Number 5  
April, 2008

## WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Fund Chair

First of all, I could not wait to let you know that the good folks of the Rocky Mountain Federation Stamps committees have sent another contribution for the Endowment Fund. These tireless committees collect stamps from their club members, and then prepare them for sale and have been donating the proceeds of the stamps to the Endowment Fund for the past two years. What a gift! I know how many stamps it takes to make a significant amount of money - and I also know what a job it is to prepare them! We truly appreciate their effort and are deeply honored to receive the gift of so many clubs of RMFMS. Thank you all.

More good news! The list of prizes for the 2008 Endowment Fund Drawing is growing nicely.

Prize #4 is an excellent Brazilian Amethyst Cathedral. John Washburn, our MWF representative who received the prize, informs us that the Cathedral measures 9.5 inches high by 7.0 inches wide. The color of the large well-defined crystals is a vibrant reddish-purple throughout.

This cathedral was donated to the 2008 AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing by Mr. Gary Peeve, proprietor of Peeve's Rocks. Gary is a member of the Peoria, Illinois club and also of the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society of Springfield, Illinois. Interestingly enough, Gary was the winner of the Tampa Bay Coral prize last year, and as he told John, the coral is proudly displayed in his collection. For that reason, he was happy to donate something this year in return. Conservatively valued at \$200. (MWF).



We have had word that we can expect to receive at least two more prizes in the next few days, but you will have to wait to read about them until the May AFMS Newsletter arrives, due to deadline constraints. However, we will

## FILING FORM 990N

from Mike Kokinos, CFMS Tax Advisor

Societies who are not required to file Form 990 or 990EZ with the IRS (clubs with gross receipts averaging \$25,000 or less) must now file Form 990N.

The IRS has arranged for the filing of the new Form 990N through the Urban Institute. The filing can only be accomplished via the Urban Institute website <<http://epostcard.form990.org>>.

If your club operates on a calendar year (January 1 - December 31) you must file by May 15th. Fiscal year organizations, must file within 4 months and 15 days of the organization's year end. The IRS has warned not to file until after the end of the organization's year.

You will need to have the following information before going to the website:

- EIN (federal identification number.
- Tax year
- Legal name of the organization and mailing address.
- Name and Address of a principal officer.
- Web address if there is one

If you encounter any problems, please let me know. This is my tax season so allow some time for a response. My email address is <[zeileitz@directcon.net](mailto:zeileitz@directcon.net)>.

be posting all pictures and descriptions on the AFMS website as soon as we receive them. You can see the latest postings at <[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)>.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. They can be purchased from any of the following Regional Federation representatives:

- CFMS - Bural LaRue
- EFMLS - Joy Bourne
- MWF - John Washburn
- NFMS - Rocky McCall
- RMFMS - Howie Whiting
- SCFMS - Joyce Speed
- SFMS - Ken Anderson

or you can order them by mail directly from me (RR #1, Box 159A; Towanda, PA 18848. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund".

See you next month!

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

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## THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING  
SEVEN REGIONAL



I found out this month (February) what friends are for. Dee & I manned a booth at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, along with Wendell and JoAnn Mohr where among other things, we asked for help in getting U.S. Gemstone/Birthstone stamps approved. There was a beautiful display of some of the Smithsonian's most beautiful gemstones to catch the eye of those passing by. We also had a lot of tumbled stones to pass out to the kids of all ages and these proved to be good conversation starters.

We shared the booth with Dr. Robert Carlson and Fran Berting who were promoting ALAA. Jon Spunaugle was also there to assist.

The show started on Thursday and Steve Weinberger promptly came down with the flu on Friday. Many people at the show were having difficulty with this new strain of the flu. By Saturday evening I fell into bed and didn't get up till Monday morning. Carolyn Weinberger got sick late Sunday afternoon in the booth and the hazard crew closed the booth so they could drive her back to the motel.

What a bunch! We had planned to visit the Eastern Federation Show and Convention in Jackson, MS. Could we make it? Dee wasn't feeling very well and I was very weak. We left Monday along with Carolyn and Steve on our long journey. Steve was still feeling the effects of the flu, but on we went. If Carolyn and Steve hadn't "herded" us along on that trip, making motel reservations, making sure we stopped often enough to rest, etc. I'm sure we wouldn't have made it. Friends are wonderful!

Arriving in Jackson on Thursday we checked into the hotel. I was supposed to put in two exhibits for the show, but I just couldn't do it. I had been asked to do a number of things at the meeting, but only said a few words. (unlike me!) I'm told that we attended the banquet and the Editor's Breakfast, but neither of us could say or do very much because we were both still weak from that darned flu. Once again, friends pinch hit for us in awarding certificates, and handling the auction of "Dr. Bob". On Sunday afternoon Dee and I were on our way to the ranch in Idaho, but we hadn't anticipated the weather, Al Gore's global warming was creating more snow than people had seen in years.... We took the southern route, I-20 to I-10 to San Diego and rested up a few days before heading north on I-15 to Idaho.

Let me up date you on some things that have been happening:

Bob and Kathy Miller, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on studying if the contests should continue have been working hard on asking the Midwest Federation what they think of continuing with many of the current contests. Let me say, I hope that everyone will not just vote an up or down vote, but take the time to evaluate if the program needs tweeking and why there aren't as many people entering the various contests. One problem I see is the lack of interest by the recipients in attending the event in their region that promotes the contest. At the Eastern Federation's Editor's Breakfast there were beautiful awards and stacks of certificates that were not picked up. If you enter the contest, shouldn't you be a part of the end product and be there personally to pick up your award? I know the snow was deep and many chose not to travel, but Ellery Borow, Eastern President, came all the way from Maine for the event.

Wendell Mohr, Commemorative Stamp Chair worked hard in the AFMS booth at Tucson asking people, especially teachers, if they would make a class project out of it. He had information on who to write to and a sheet on birthstones found within the U.S. and suggestions on reading about gemstones, etc. Thanks, Wendell and JoAnn, for all your efforts.

I had a chance to visit with Joy Bourne, our AFMS President-Elect and we worked out a plan where she will represent the AFMS at the Midwest Show in June and I will attend the Northwest Show on the same date in Oregon. I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the Midwest show and convention, but I can't be in two places at once. Which brings me to another problem. Please see that your regional federation convention is listed in the AFMS Newsletter as soon as possible. Contact Bob Livingston, AFMS Show Consultant, as soon as you have a date for your regional show. He's reached at <gemguy@verizon.net>. It's important that Bob know your federation plans so that we can avoid having more than one convention on the same weekend.

The Eastern Federation is the third regional federation to support the AFMS dues increase of \$.25 per member, along with Southeast and South Central. I can't thank you enough for your support.

Thanks for listening, till next month....

Shirley

### OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT  
**SHIRLEY LEESON**

<shirleyleeson@msn.com>



PRESIDENT-ELECT  
**JOY BOURNE**

<csprings@epix.net>



1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
**EMERSON TUCKER**

<emersonont@suddenlink.net>



2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
**JOHN BLUE**

<jblue@n2net.net>



3RD VICE PRESIDENT  
**LAUREN WILLIAMS**

<slharuir@yahoo.com>



4TH VICE PRESIDENT  
**DON MONROE**

<donmonroe@windstream.net>



5TH VICE PRESIDENT  
**RICHARD JAEGER**

<Rjgrsci@aol.com>

SECRETARY  
**ANNE COOK**

<secretary@amfed.org>

TREASURER  
**PAT LARUE**

<bplarue@earthlink.net>

### IN MEMORIAM

Lisa Whiting, daughter-in-law of Howie and Doris Whiting and sister-in-law of Dian Weir passed away February 21st of complications from pneumonia. She was only 42 years of age and leaves behind 8 year old daughter Kelsey and husband Roy (Howie & Doris' youngest son).

Memorial contributions may be made to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation via your regional Federation coordinator. On behalf of the entire AFMS family we extend condolences to Howie and Doris and their family.

## IT'S SHOWTIME AGAIN!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President -elect

We have just returned home from attending the first Regional Federation Convention and Show of 2008; The EFMLS Convention was held on February 22 - 24 in Jackson, MS and we had a wonderful time. It was a treat to get to sunny Mississippi after driving four days just ahead of the storms all the way, and how nice to meet and greet so many good AFMS friends from far and near!

Dignitaries present were AFMS President Shirley Leeson and AFMS Past President Dee Holland who arrived shortly after AFMS Newsletter Editor Carolyn and EFMLS Past President Steve Weinberger - both parties having come directly from the big Tucson adventure. Barbara Sky came out from Missouri; B. Jay Bowman from Oklahoma; EFMLS President Ellery Borow from Maine; EFMLS Region I Vice President Katie Collins and Roger Warren from Connecticut; EFMLS Past President Matt and Jean Charsky from Washington D.C.; SFMS Immediate Past President Buddy Shotts from Lucedale, MS, and the SCFMS Past President Bill and Lois Pattillo came in from Texas.



Of course, we met many folks from EFMLS, as well. While the EFMLS attendance, not counting Host Club's attendance, was not quite as large as we might have wished, we took into account that most of our part of the country - From Maine to Mississippi - has been (and still is) pretty well snowed and iced-in.

The show was excellent! Betty James, Horace Pezant and their crew have worked tirelessly, and are to be congratulated for their excellent planning, preparation and execution of the entire event. One of the bigger shows in our Federation, as always, they had a large number of excellent dealers offering a wide variety of quality, reasonably-priced merchandise; an auction; lots of good food and a large gallery of special exhibits.

The highlight of the exhibits had to be Bill and Lois Pattillo's Rock Food Table, which actually consisted of four beautifully draped tables filled with realistic-appearing entrees, all made of rock. Unfortunately, of all the showcase exhibits presented at the show, only one was a competitive exhibit! Barbara Sky, who drove in from the St Louis area, took a first-place trophy for her beautiful case of miniature barite specimens. (Class BU11XY Ia, IIc). She earned 99 of the 100 points available! Congratulations, Barb!

Folks, we really need to encourage more of our members to participate in these Competitive Exhibits events, held during all Regional Federation shows! The entire Uniform Rules book is now available on the AFMS website, or can be ordered from each of the Federations' Supplies Chairman. Over the last five years, AFMS has been funding scholarships to the Judge Training classes at Wildacres in North Carolina for the express purpose of making sure our judges all understand and interpret the rules fairly for all the Federations. To date, B. Jay Bowman, Uniform Rules official instructor, estimates about 30 judges have earned their Official Judging Certificates under this program. Just last year, the AFMS made the Judging School a permanent program offered to all Regional Federations. Let's take advantage of this great opportunity to keep these judges busy!

## AUDIENCES ARE WAITING...

by Marge Collins, AFMS Program Competition Chair

It's about your favorite mineral, a museum with a fine exhibit of fossils, or how you polish cabochons - or any other topic related to Earth Science - Clubs across the country are looking for presentations to show at meetings and shows.

You can share your interest and enthusiasm with Clubs outside your locality by entering Program Competition. Each year the deadline is April 15th. If it's too late for 2008, it's not too early to begin preparing for 2009!

For more information go to the AFMS website:  
<[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)>

- or contact your Regional Program Librarian or AFMS Program Competition Coordinator.

California Federation - Sharon & Bill Gissler  
Eastern Federation - Ken Tudor  
Midwest Federation - John Blue  
Northwest Federation - Quita Perry  
Rocky Mountain Federation - Bob & Nancy Hicks  
South Central Federation - Lester Wetherell  
Southeast Federation - Freda Hull



### 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.

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### Address corrections and changes

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#### Distribution Questions

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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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@amfed.org)>

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## WORDS OF CAUTION

by John Wright, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

As I research material for my articles, I find it interesting to see who is trying to eliminate or at least restrict access to public lands. I have said in the past, a few are truly concerned about the environment and sincere in their efforts to preserve areas with special interests or appeal. Most, however, are individuals or groups with a selfish or self-serving purpose. Following the money trail used to finance opposition groups is also very interesting. It would take a book to just touch on these two areas and I often get sidetracked by the pure unadulterated sham being perpetrated on the American public by these individuals and special interest groups.

The problem we have is that our members, like most of the American public, for the most part do not understand or cannot fathom just how dedicated and well financed these special interest groups are and the gravity of what they want to do will have on our hobby and our lives. Ignorance and indifference are major assets used by these groups to dupe the public and rob them of their access to public owned lands. We have already relinquished many of our rights due to their intrusions and are paying for it in more ways than you think.

The only good thing about being seduced into allowing our access to public lands being taken away from us is that we are in good company. A lot of the supposedly intelligent members of our government, academia, legal and entertainment professions, just to name a few, are marching right along in the parade with us. Unfortunately, many of these esteemed individuals are unwitting puppets controlled by special interests, or use the propaganda espoused by these groups, for the notoriety that keeps them in the spotlight.

Many of our elected officials go out of their way to maintain the support of special interests, or avoid offending them, and our constitutional rights are conveniently being ignored. How do we fight these problems? The first thing we need to do is be informed about issues that could potentially affect us. I listed two great sources other than AFMS in my article last month for obtaining information and there are many other informative sites that can be found online. Also check out the sites of the special interest groups so that you know your competition. You might want to start with the Wildlands Project ([rewilding.org](http://rewilding.org)) or the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Network (Y2Y Network). While these two organizations are primarily involved in the northwest there are similar groups diligently working in other parts of the country and reviewing these sites will give you a good idea of the mind-set behind these movements.

We are also a special interest group and need to make our desires known just like our adversaries. Write and petition your elected officials. Letters to the editors and articles about your club activities published in your local newspapers can gain you recognition and support. Visit schools, put displays in your local libraries and other public facilities. In other words, let it be known that you exist, that you have rights and that you have every intention of continuing and keeping your rights for access of public owned lands.

## MORE PUBLIC RELATIONS NEWS AND VIEWS

by Fran Sick, AFMS Public Relations Chair

I will begin this month where I ended last month, with news and ideas from more AFMS member clubs.



Some of these activities may be something your club has been doing. If so, wonderful, keep up the good work. Maybe your club has been considering some of these ideas but has not yet followed through. If that is the case there is no better time than the present to get the ball rolling. And maybe there will even be a few ideas you have not considered but which sound like something you might want to adopt for your club.

Guy L. DiTorrice, president of the Oregon Coast Agate Club, sent information to editor, Carolyn Weinberger about his club's ongoing program of donating books to public libraries as part of the club's community education outreach efforts. Thank you Carolyn for forwarding the information. The Oregon Coast Club recently donated a box of rock and dinosaur books to the Toledo Public Library. This was the fourth library donation by the club in just one month's time. The club also supports a juniors program for high school students through the Alsea Youth Lapidary Club at a local school.

Library donations are a great way to promote interest in the rock and mineral hobby while at the same time emphasizing the fact that our clubs are good neighbors. For those of us who are parents, I think you will agree that few things make a more positive impression than when someone does something to support our children. And from the kids' standpoint, who knows when just one book may spark a lifelong interest in rocks and minerals. My own club, the Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club of Sayre, Pennsylvania, has for many years donated memorial library books in remembrance of deceased members. We also have a long standing tradition of donating to school libraries.

Here is another interesting idea for our junior members. The Eastern Federation has a rather unique club composed of about fifty very enthusiastic fourth and fifth graders with a small core of adults who work with them. President, Michael Putney, sent what I think is an exciting idea, one he has been thinking about for some time. Michael is an elementary teacher who was asked to implement a rock and mineral unit to be included in the curriculum of his third grade students. The response was so overwhelming that two years ago the Mineral Minds Club, Mayville, New York, was born. Michael says that the kids love the section of Rock and Gem Magazine for students. The only problem is that it is a small section in an adult magazine. He believes there should be a hobby-related magazine just for students, something like a cross between Highlights and Rock and Gem. He hopes to, at some point, put his ideas together, create a sample magazine and find a way to get it published. Good luck Michael. I want the first subscriptions for my grandchildren.

If you would like more information about any of the ideas mentioned in these Public Relations articles or would like to contact any of the people mentioned, feel free to contact me at <[ednfran@epix.net](mailto:ednfran@epix.net)>. And please keep the ideas coming.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES?

from Sir Barkley Bigfoot and Caesar the Gofer

Pardon us while we climb on our soapbox for a few minutes, but something is happening to our club bulletins that truly concerns us. Most of our clubs are chartered as educational organizations. That should mean that their mission is to educate members and the public about our wonderful hobby. Yes, many of our clubs hold an annual show, and yes, that qualifies as an educational outreach. A few clubs offer classes in club sponsored workshops that are open to members and the public, and yes, that qualifies as an educational outreach.

Our big concern however, is that more and more of the club bulletins that are either e-mailed or snail mailed to us no longer contain educational articles! We see this as a growing trend...and a dangerous one for the health of the clubs.

Including educational articles in the club bulletin can be difficult - not all clubs are fortunate enough to have prolific authors who are willing to take a few minutes to write an article. There are several sources of articles that club editors can "borrow". Here's how:

1. Develop an exchange bulletin list. Most club editors today have access to e-mail, so the cost to the club of mailing exchange bulletins is "0". Conversion to "pdf" files takes only a minute and there are free

"pdf" converter programs available.

2. Join an organization called S.C.R.I.B.E ([scribesite.home.att.net/](http://scribesite.home.att.net/)). Cost of a 1 year membership is a whopping \$6 per year (\$8 for husband and wife) and in exchange for your \$6 you will receive 4 e-mail newsletters per year PLUS an annual CD that contains copies of many, many club bulletins and articles that you can copy and use in your own club publication.

Think about the mission of your club and start adding at least one educational article to each of your bulletins. You'll be doing your part to educate the public and keep your club true to its stated mission.

Okay, we're off our soapbox and ready for some biscuits.



Barkley



and Caesar

## AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION NEWS

by Dee Holland, President

We have just returned from the Eastern Federation Convention and Show in Jackson, MS where we gave out certificates for those clubs who had donated money to the Foundation since their last show.

We took the famous "Doc Bob" puzzle dog with us to the Convention and showed it around. It was auctioned off to the highest bidder, who just happened to be Shirley Leeson. She was interested in the "prize" inside the puzzle. It was a beautiful Rose of France amethyst faceted stone set in a 14-k gold setting. The stone was cut by Steve Weinberger.



We are pleased to announce the names of the six regional Honorees. They are:

California:

**Prof. George Wheeldon**, Shingle Springs, CA

Professor Wheeldon was nominated by the El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society. He is a long time professor of geology at the El Dorado Center, Cosumnes River College in Placerville, CA. His resume is extensive including teaching physical geology, historical geology, mineralogy, paleontology, California geology, geologic field studies and earthquakes. He also developed an outstanding curriculum centered on prospecting and the mining history of California's Mother Lode region.

Eastern:

**Prof. Emeritus Arthur M. Hussey**, Bowdoinham, ME

Dr. Hussey spent 34 years as Chair of Geology at Bowdoin College. Although retired, he remains Volunteer Coordinator of the Cleveland Cabinet mineral collection and the rock and fossil collections at Bowdoin.

A prolific author, Professor Hussey has authored or co-authored numerous articles on the metamorphic stratigraphy, structure, intrusive activity and tectonic interpretation of the bedrock geology of southwestern Maine. He has also done extensive work in co-compiling the 1957 and 1985 editions of the bedrock geology maps of Maine. Presently, he is co-authoring yet another paper on Maine's geologic history.

Midwest:

**Joe and Nellie Claxton**, Mt. Vernon, Illinois

The Claxtons have lived in Southern Illinois most of their lives and have been rockhounds for over 35 years. Both have been active in the Midwest Federation and have been regular attendees at MWF meetings. Nellie just stepped down as AFMS/MWF Scholarship Coordinator after seven years and she has held many other jobs over the years for the MWF. Joe has been Assistant State Director since 1985 and has assisted Nellie in many of her jobs.

Northwest:

**Ed Romack**, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Ed has served both the NFMS and AFMS in many jobs over the years, but his real claim to fame has been the famous stone auction held each year in the NFMS. In 2007 Ed brought the event to the AFMS at

## TRI-FEDERATION ROCKHOUND RENDEZVOUS AND FIELD TRIP

by Richard Pankey, Interregional Federation Field Trip Chair

When you read this in April it will be just a few short weeks until our Tri-Federation Rockhound Rendezvous and Field Trip. We are looking forward to many of you joining us for this fun event. The weather should be just right – springtime, the hills are still green and the wild flowers are in bloom. We are relying on the bulletin editors and field trip chairmen to help get the word out about this unique adventure. The two-page Field Trip flier is available on the AFMS, CFMS, NFMS and RMFMS web page. This flier has all the details about the trip, directions to our campsite and other useful information.

There were two activities mentioned in the flier that I would like to explain in more detail. On Friday and Saturday afternoons we will conduct our Tailgate Displays. We will have rockhounds from all over the western United States that I am sure have collected some unique and interesting material from their home area. Bring along some specimens to show and share at the tailgate display. This will also be a good time to conduct the "map exchange". Map exchanges are easy – to get a map you have to give a map. Before you leave home prepare a good, detailed map of a good, unique or little known collecting area that you are familiar with. The map should be a detailed hand or computer drawn map with accurate mileages, GPS coordinates are very desirable, and be sure to note collecting site details and campsites where appropriate. Bring along as many maps as you would like to receive. I plan to bring 100 copies of my map. I am sure there will be a lot of informal exchanges of collecting sites, GPS info, and sharing of great places to go and see.

This trip is open to members and guests of the Northwest, Rocky Mountain and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies, and all of the Federations of the AFMS. Everyone who agrees to adhere to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics, abide by the direction of the field trip leaders, and practice safe rockhounding is welcome to attend.

Please notify your respective Federation leader early, but no later than May 16, if you plan to attend; e-mail (or call) if you have questions or need more information. Don't wait – do it now. This will be a great opportunity for rockhounds from all over the west, and all of the Federations of the AFMS, to meet one another, to share stories, and information about collecting in their home areas. Be sure to bring material from your favorite collecting sites to show and share.

Come join us for a great Tri-Federation Rendezvous of collecting, fun and fellowship.

Dick Parks  
Northwest Federation  
<packrats2@msn.com>  
360-892-3716

Yonis Lone Eagle  
Rocky Mt. Federation  
<rockymountainrockhounds@yahoo.com>  
505-860-2455

Dick Pankey  
California Federation  
<dickpankey@juno.com>  
925-439-7509

Roswell, New Mexico and raised over \$10,000. His own stones and those he has requested from Friends brought in record sums. There was even a "diamond" offered by Gary Peterson of Ketchum, Idaho. For Ed's 80th birthday his son donated \$5,000. to the Scholarship Foundation in his honor.

Rocky Mountain:

**Anna Domitrovic**, Tucson, AZ

Anna was nominated by the Huachuca Mineral & Gem Society, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Anna has been a professionally qualified curator of earth sciences with more than 25 years of experience in maintaining mineral, fossil and rock collections. Equal and concurrent experience in daily operations of an earth sciences visitor center at a world-renown natural history museum. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, AZ.

South Central:

**Dr. Bridget M. Joubert**, Alexandria, LA

Dr. Joubert was nominated by the DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society, Leesville, Louisiana.

Dr. Joubert is an instructor of Biology/Microbiology/Molecular Biology at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, Louisiana and is a member of a number of gem and mineral societies in Louisiana. She has created programs and lectured on: Gemstones of the World; Cabochons of

the World; Color of Gemstones, Minerals & Glass; Out West in America (Yearly presentations of mining gems and minerals "out west"); Opal Cutting and Fine Opal Jewelry and Gemstone Faceting Demonstrations.

As you can see we have a wide range of wonderful honorees this year. Thanks to everyone for their help in assembling this very prestigious group.



AFMS President Shirley, high bidder on the "Dr. Bob" Scholarship auction at the EFMLS Convention

## AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair

I am waiting for your nominations for Rockhound of the Year! It is easy, does not cost you anything and only takes you a few minutes. So choose a member (either single or a couple) and in 100 words or less tell me their achievements, a brief history and write it up. Either email or snail mail it to me and we will take it from there.

I am wondering if I was confused when I accepted this job I was led to believe there are seven regional federations. So far I have only heard from two ( The California Federation and The Eastern Federation). We have five lost Federations I would dearly love to hear from. Please don't disappoint me.

Here are the submissions I've received this month. Congratulations to each of these club "unsung heroes".



### California Federation

**Dan Norcross**, a member for six years is a quiet, unassuming individual who has contributed significantly to the operations of the Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society shop. Dan started as a member of the Shop Committee and for the past two years, he has been the shop committee chairperson. He contributes both considerable time and material to keeping the shop running smoothly. Dan arrives early for each shop session to check out the equipment, repair broken items, clean up the area – all in preparation for the members attending the shop. During the sessions, Dan eagerly helps people with various aspects from sawing to grinding and polishing. He is an avid sphere maker and has instructed many of our members on the processes and tricks for fine sphere making. Dan is well deserving of this recognition.

Submitted by: Lee Peterson  
Vice President

**John Peterson** has been active in the Reno Gem and Mineral Society since 1992, the year after he and his wife, Lorrie joined. He has held either an elected officer position or an appointed director position almost every year since. John was instrumental in building our storage areas and organizing the storage in those same areas in our clubhouse. He has served on numerous presidential appointed committees. He and Lorrie display regularly at our Jackpot of Gems annual show. John has served as the show chairman since about 1997 doing an exceptional job for us. He organized a club project for securing some abandoned mines around Brady Hot Springs area in 1993.

John is an outstanding member of the Reno Gem and Mineral Society and we wish to honor his service.

submitted by Jennifer Rhodes,  
AFMS/CFMS Director



### Eastern Federation

The members of Saco Valley Mineral Club of Albany, New Hampshire are proud to nominate president **Dick Dennison** for rockhound of the year. Dick's many accomplishments include being able to motivate the club from his winter home in Florida, supporting the club annual show, and finding the club a new meeting place where he also assists in teaching children about rocks and minerals during the summer. One of his most popular endeavors is to set up lodging and field trips for our annual Canada pilgrimage. Not only is Dick a doer but he is also very approachable and is the mortar in our rock club.

Mary Fraser  
Saco Valley Mineral Club

The members of the American Fossil Federation have selected the husband and wife team of **Joanna and Matt Howard** as the 2008 Fossilhound of the Year. Joanna and Matt attended their first

AFF meeting in early 2004 and both were inducted by fall of that year. They quickly became involved in our club's activities and have attended a majority of meetings and fieldtrips. Avid fossil collectors, they have attended the annual Aurora Fossil Festival in Aurora, North Carolina since 2005, where they offer their time and hard work in assisting both the Friends of the Aurora Fossil Museum and the Aff during the busy festival.

Both eagerly filled officers positions in AFF soon after becoming members; Joanna accepting the position of Club Historian while Matt held the position of Fossil Show Coordinator in 2007 and was recently elected to the office of Vice President for 2008.

The members of AFF are pleased to have Joana and Matt Howard in our club and value their commitment to our shared hobby and extend a huge note of 'thanks and congratulations' to both as our 2008 Fossilhound of the Year.

AFF, Jim Patzer, President  
Betsy Hallman, Secretary

The Maine Mineralogical and Geological Society has the honor of nominating the husband and wife team of **Susan and Paul Cormier** for Rockhound of the Year. Sue and Paul are two positive and enthusiastic individuals who are a constant pulse to our organization's lifeblood.

They make sure our newsletters are sent out through bulk mailing, advertisements are posted for the annual club show, put up signs for the show despite unpredictable New England weather, and so many other tasks that are taken for granted and may go unnoticed because this dynamic duo makes things happen so uneventfully. Their spirit and enterprise is contagious, so even monotonous tasks are fun with their presence.

Thanks to Sue and Paul for all they have done in the past and continue to do for the club on an ongoing basis. MMGS is grateful to you both.

submitted by Mary Fraser  
MMGS

## UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, Show Coordinator

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2008	June 27-29 Ventura, CA	Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS	June 20-22 Lincoln, NE	June 20-22 Ontario, OR	Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 Tulsa, OK	AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX	
2009			May 16-17 Parma, OH	AFMS July 30 - Aug. 2 Billings MT			
2010	AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA						

## QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, AFMS Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.



### TAKE 5 — JUST FOR YOU!

"I try to take one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once"<sup>1</sup> could easily be an editor's mantra, especially when you're almost at your deadline and still typing like mad.

That's when you begin to feel stress and tension, especially in your head, neck, shoulders, and back.

There are some simple things you can do to release the tension, without even getting out of your chair<sup>2</sup>:

1- sit back in the chair, feet on the floor, hands in your lap, and breathe in deeply, slowly; let your belly expand and your shoulders rise — then exhale all the air out; you can close your eyes if you'd like, taking several deep breaths (concentrate on breathing — I promise you won't go to sleep!)

2- to relax your neck and shoulders, inhale slowly and deeply as you lengthen your spine, sitting up tall, then slowly exhale as you look to your right; inhale and look forward; exhale and look left; do several times

3- to relax your back, scoot that chair away from the keyboard, plant your feet firmly on the ground, chair width apart; inhale for a long spine, then exhale as you bend at the hips (not your waist!) and walk your hands down the fronts of your legs; you can let your head drop between your arms, nodding "yes" then shaking it "no"; if this makes you dizzy, just keep your head higher than your heart; after several breaths walk your hands back up your legs; if you have low back issues you can do this by supporting yourself with your hands on your thighs as you hinge forward at the hip

4- to re-energize and get ready to type again, move to the front edge of your chair, feet firmly planted, about 10 inches apart; reach both hands behind you to the seat or outside edges of your chair; each time you inhale let your chest rise and pull the shoulder blades together — you'll feel your spine get longer; exhale and relax your shoulders down; repeat several times

Feeling better? Got 2 more minutes? Go ahead and get up, walk to the kitchen and get a drink of water. Then you can sit back down and keep those attacking days at bay!

<sup>1</sup>Seabrook, Jane, ed. *Furry Logic — A Guide to Life's Little Challenges*. Berkley/Toronto: Ten Speed Press, 2004.

<sup>2</sup>Suggestions based on *Tools for Teachers Training Handbook* by Leah Kalish and Tara Lynda Guber.

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)

## HAVING FUN — JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

### CLEARING UP MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE FRA PROGRAM

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Jr. Activities Chair

The Number One goal of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Future Rockhounds of America program is to reach out to as many kids as possible to fan whatever budding interest they may have in rocks, fossils, and lapidary arts. In messages I've received via email, in talking with folks at gem shows and annual Federation meetings, and via the grapevine, I've become aware of a number of misperceptions about the AFMS/FRA program, and some of these are standing in the way of our goal. I'd like to clear up several of the more common misperceptions I've heard and encourage you to actively enroll each and every child in each and every club into FRA.



Misperception 1: To sign your juniors and pebble pups into FRA, you must have a whole group of kids, a youth leader, and a formal, structured youth program within your society. Not so! I constantly hear from folks that their society doesn't have enough kids to start the FRA program, or that their board of directors resists starting a youth group (that one always turns my head!). We want the program to be as inclusive as possible, and you don't need a big, formal group. If your society has just one child, sign that child up! We'll send an FRA membership badge, and they'll have a stronger sense of belonging to the community of your club. You don't need to wait until you have a whole roomful of kids and a youth leader. Start the ball rolling with a single child!

Misperception 2: To be in FRA, you actively need to implement the Badge Program. Not so! The badge program was set up to provide just one source of structured activities, but you don't need to use it at all to enroll your kids into FRA. In working with kids in your society, you can use your own activities or commercial sets of activities (like the great packets developed by Diamond Dan or activities sold by Ward's or Edmund Scientifics), or simply have your club's kids participate in the regular workshops, shows, and field trips your club undertakes in its normal course of business. The Badge Program is simply meant to serve as one option among many to utilize with your kids.

Misperception 3: To use the FRA Badge Program, you need to set up a formal schedule and arrange group activities with all the kids in your club. Not so! A lot of folks tell me they'd like to use the badge program, but it's just too hard to schedule times when all the kids can get together, especially between after-school soccer, band, baseball, etc. I encourage you to be as flexible as possible with the Badge Program. A number of the activities are a lot more fun if done within a group, but don't let the inability schedule a time get in the way. Allow for individual "independent study" and "home-schooling" for motivated juniors. The back-up pages in the Badge Manual were developed to give folks with minimal background what they need to guide kids through the activities, and these back-up pages can be shared with parents to work with their kids on their own at

home. So give parents a copy of the manual and encourage them to sit down with their kids to pick out activities they'd like to do. All we need in order to send a child a badge is a responsible adult—a parent or designated club member—to sign off to indicate successful completion, and a badge will be on the way to mark that child's accomplishments with a colorful, tangible reward.

Misperception 4: To use the FRA Badge Program and award badges to your kids, you must follow the manual to the letter. Not so! When they've received the manual, some folks have said its size looks daunting, that the badge program seems designed for the "Eagle Scouts" among their junior members, and that some of the activities may be too involved for younger members. But as I note in the Introduction to the manual, you're encouraged to adjust the level of each activity to best match ages and abilities of your club's kids. You don't need to follow each activity exactly as laid out. Modify, where necessary simplify, but above all utilize the program! The goal is to help kids have fun while learning, so if you see a different spin on a particular activity that'll work better with your kids, by all means, take that spin, and then let's reward the kids with badges.

Misperception 5: If a society doesn't have any kids, the society can't do anything with the FRA program. Actually, this seems pretty self-evident, and I myself held this misperception—until a couple of local societies showed me the way. One society in Texas lacks junior members, so they went to where the kids are! They're using the FRA Fossils activities and badges with local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, hoping it might serve to attract kids to the club. Another society sponsors a geology club in one of their local schools that now uses the Badge Program. I personally have found such examples of resourcefulness inspiring!

So my basic message? Let's not make things complicated nor let misperceptions get in the way. Rather than looking for reasons not to enroll kids into FRA, let's follow the example of those clubs that went to where the kids are and get creative with a program that's been set up for every club, even those with just a single child member, or no children at all! Don't have "enough" kids? Don't want to start until you hold endless debates at board meetings about starting a juniors group? Don't know if you want to use the Badge Program? Don't know how to get started? Well, "don't" isn't exactly an inspiring word; in fact, it's a word often used to beat down the inner child within us all. Don't let "don't" get in the way of that key first step toward inspiring our children. I urge one and all to call me today to sign up each and every child. It's the first step toward bringing along the next generation of rockhounds while, as always, having fun!



## BE SAFE — BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

### Help from Members

More and more I receive suggestions and assistance with our safety articles. At the recent SFMS annual meeting in Biloxi several people came up with great subjects for future articles. I also read a large number of bulletins from many sources and I want to share one with you that was published in the "Rockhounds Tale" from the Panama City Gem & Mineral Society.



#### "Vegas On your Mind?"

Would you guess one of our club members would end up needing eight stitches from a shard knocked off a boulder with his own sledgehammer? Odds are, it was bound to happen sooner or later. What are the odds of another club member being peppered with three tiny, sharp & dangerous shards immediately ABOVE his eye (some bleeding, needed pressure to stop it) just three weeks later at another sledgehammer party at a different location? Personal safety begins to invade your conscious mind and makes you wonder, "Well, it's possible, not necessarily probable". Then guess the likely odds of the first injured club member having bought some shin protectors, failing to wear them on dig #2 and ending up with ANOTHER large cut from yet another sharp flake — finally, you can decide the odds of this happening again. If anyone gives you mere even odds this will happen a third time to "scar leg", JUMP on this bet without delay. I'll be dragging my knuckles on the ground before I'll ever put my eyes or legs at risk on a rock dig again. You can take that to the bank while my wife says "well it is about time".

This safety issue is noteworthy only because we now all know someone who has been seriously hurt during a dig. Many times over the years had I not been wearing glasses that were badly scratched at a dig by flying chips and pebbles, the alternative might have been an eye loss. It was only a matter of time. Safety will one day become a paramount issue to our hobby as it grows, leading to more digs and the inevitable injuries; that is a sure bet!"

By Herb Whittington

At the November SFMS meeting, I met Herb Whittington and we discussed his story and I saw the scars. They were real and it was scary. As Paul Harvey would say "and that is the rest of the story".

### NEW OFFICERS?

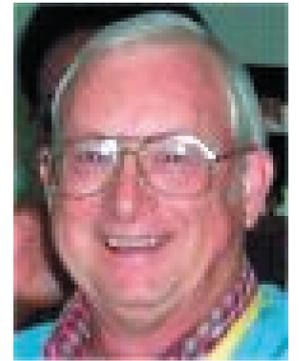
by Steve Weinberger, Central Office Administrator

If your club has elected officers for 2008, please take a minute to let the Central Office know who they are. Send the name and mailing address of your president, editor and either secretary or federation representative to me at <central\_office@amfed.org> or snail mail the list to me at PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

## INTER-REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS

by Richard Pankey, Ad-Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trips

The AFMS ad hoc committee for Inter Regional Field Trips was established to promote and conduct interaction between the members of the Federations of AFMS. And when I say members I don't mean the clubs or the officers, I mean the people. The rockhounds! Prior to establishing this committee the interaction between Federations typically only happened at an AFMS combined meeting and show. And this basically has been limited to the Federations' officers and the committees. While the stated purpose of this committee is to hold and promote field trips, I think the scope could be expanded to include rock swaps, seminars, classes, and the like. To start, we will focus on field trips.



A difference between an "Inter Regional Field Trip" and a Federation field trip or a club trip often comes down to who is invited, how the trip is promoted and where it is promoted. The last few years I have received and diligently read several other Federation newsletters and have become aware of a number of field trips and related events that could easily fit the criteria of an "inter-regional trip". By its' nature an inter-regional field trip is probably bigger than most other field trips and therefore requires more thought and planning. Since the purpose is to attract a broader geographical attendance the collecting opportunity should be for material that is of good quality and good supply, and easily obtainable by both experienced and inexperienced rockhounds. This event can and should offer those attending more than just collecting. It should provide opportunities for socializing and interaction: potluck dinners, happy hour get togethers, and evening campfires. There can be other attractions and activities such as speakers from BLM/Forest Service/local experts, map exchanges and home material swap, special sight seeing attractions like a National Park, and other collecting sights in the area or on the way.

Over the next few months I will be talking more about the considerations and planning for an "Inter-Regional Field Trip". If anyone has any thoughts or ideas about what we should consider when holding a trip, please send me an e-mail.

## MEET YOUR AFMS PERSONNEL

### John Wright

John Wright is one of those individuals who wears several hats for the AFMS serving as both Boundaries Chair and Conservation & Legislation Chair. He's a retired Registered Professional Geologist, scientific author, and award winning club bulletin article author. A past president of the Southeast Federation (2002) and a member of several SFMS clubs, John lives with his wife Billie in the lovely Mississippi gulf coast town of Ocean Springs.

### Kitty Starbuck

Kitty and Marve (AFMS President, 2004), Marve and Kitty - an amazing team of involved individuals working together for the AFMS, Midwest



Federations and their clubs. Kitty currently serves as chair of the Editors' Hall of Fame Committee, but prior to that spent ten years as Chair of the annual AFMS Editors' contest. She's also edited a variety of club bulletins and the MWF Federation bulletin along with

handling the tasks involved with chairing or co-chairing federation conventions, exhibiting, etc. In 2006 Marve and Kitty were selected as AFMS Honorary Scholarship recipients from the Midwest!

**AFMS ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2008**  
**HUMBLE, TEXAS**

## AFMS CODE 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 H.E.L.P. (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.