



AFMS Newsletter  
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# A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 62, Number 9 – October, 2009  
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES  
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

*by Dee Holland, AFMS Scholarship Foundation President*



For some time the AFMS Scholarship Foundation has been having a difficult time with the second year of the scholarships for students selected by the Regional Honorees. Many times the student chooses to not continue and the Honoree is asked to choose a second student. This all takes time and can get very confusing. In addition, with interest rates on investments currently being very low, the fund is not generating enough interest to fully fund the program as it's currently been funded.

As a result, the Directors of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation meeting in Billings, Montana in August voted to make the following changes:

- For 2010, each Honoree will select the school of his choice and help the school select two students for scholarships as is currently done. For 2010 only, each student would receive a one year grant of \$2,000. There would be no second year award for them.

- Beginning in 2011, the Honoree chosen by each region, would again select the school and help select the students to be given scholarships. Each of these students would receive \$4,000 for one year only. (Each student would receive the same amount currently awarded, but as a one year award rather than spread out over two years).



*"Doc Bob", a wooden puzzle box crafted by Dr. Bob Carlson. Each year "Doc Bob" is symbolically auctioned off and the winner gets to keep the jewelry item found within.*

### Here's a challenge for you!

Emerson Tucker, incoming AFMS President has challenged the six regional federations to raise the funds so that the students selected in 2010 will be able to receive \$4,000 rather than \$2,000 dollars as their grant. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could do this?

The faceted stone auction at the convention in Billings, MT raised \$13,250 and the sponsor of the event, the Intermountain Faceters Guild consented to make the funds garnered "unrestricted" which means that these funds can be used towards the challenge. In addition, the "Doc Bob" auction at the banquet raised an additional \$1,000 which also will go towards the challenge. Doing some quick math, this tells us that we only have \$9,750 to raise in order to reach our goal of raising enough money to fund that extra \$2,000 for our 2010 scholarship students.

Time is short, but with YOUR help, we believe we can do it. Will you help us?

Checks, payable to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation and marked "unrestricted" on the memo line, should be sent to your Regional Scholarship Coordinator:

- CFMS - Betty Pankey  
4310 Kingsly Dr.  
Pittsburg, CA 94565
- EFMS: Bob Livingston  
59 Ely Dr.,  
Fayetteville, NY 13066
- MWF: Marge Collins  
3017 Niles-Buchanan Rd.  
Buchanan, MI 49107
- NFMS: Rose Alene McArthur,  
33434 Highway 212  
Orofino, ID 83544
- RMFMS: Sandy Cannedy  
Rt 1, Box 7  
Binger, OK 73009
- SCFMS: Jonathan Moehring  
2835 Grandview Dr.  
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

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Please remember to let your regional coordinator know the name of the club that you wish credited with your donation and to mark your checks "unrestricted" on the memo line if you want your contribution to go towards the challenge.

**Let's do it for "the kids".**



*The lucky winner of the "Doc Bob" auction*

## THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING  
SEVEN REGIONAL  
FEDERATIONS



### OFFICERS:



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<csprings@epix.net>



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<bplarue@earthlink.net>

## AND A WONDERFUL TIME WAS HAD BY ALL...

*by Joy Bourne, AFMS President*

As promised in my last message to you, I want to tell you that the AFMS Annual Meeting and Convention in Billings, Montana was a super event! Doug True, (the man in charge of everything) did not miss a thing, and his advance publicity was right on target.

Highlights of the Annual Meeting were:

- a cordial and gracious welcome from Paul Heesacker, President of the Billings Gem & Mineral Club, and host for the Convention
- the approval of the proposal to update the Operating Procedures, and Shirley Leeson's motion to obtain liability insurance for AFMS officers.

- Emerson Tucker, in his office as President-Elect, presented the 2009-2010 budget, and Dr. Bob Carlson made a motion for its acceptance, which was passed, as was his motion to accept by acclamation the proposed slate of officers for 2009-2010.

The meeting went very smoothly, indeed. All told, the entire meeting took under two hours to accomplish some very important business of the AFMS.

The Awards Banquet must have had an attendance of 400 Rockhounds - the food was plentiful and delicious. The proposed slate of officers was duly installed in office, and as a surprise treat, we were treated to the visit of some 20 Canadian visitors, invited by Shirley to attend in reciprocation for hers and Dee's visits to their club meetings.

And what a Show! I never did get to visiting all the vendors - spent too much time looking at all the wonderful competitive and non-competitive cases! Someone told me that they were hoping to have 200 cases there, and I think they probably made the goal.

All in all, it was a very well planned and hugely-attended convention, and I was delighted to see so many of my long-time Rockhound friends from far and near. The Billings Convention will remain in my happy memories for many years to come.

This will be my last message as AFMS President, and I have enjoyed meeting with you, and receiving your newsletters and e-mail interchanges. My successor, Emerson Tucker, will pick up the gavel on November 1. I know you will welcome and support him in his job.

In closing, I want to thank all of my hard working committee chairs and those who've given me guidance and support throughout the year. I also want to thank all the editors who sent me their newsletters each month - I've enjoyed reading them all and feel that I've come to know you and your club members quite well. It's a pleasure to read about so many wonderful programs and activities.

My best wishes to you all and remember to Keep on Rocking!

Joy



## CORRECTIONS

*from Ye Olde Editor*

Seems as if there were two errors in the September AFMS Newsletter. Our proof readers must have been busy sleeping!



*Members of the Uniform Rules Committee*  
front: Josie Middleton, Barbara Jacobsen, Barbara Sky,  
Anne Cook, Betty James  
Back Row: Bob & Kathy Miller, Joe Slouber,  
Tom Burchard, Jay Bowman, Dee Holland, Bob Carlson

In the photo of the Uniform Rules meeting, we incorrectly named Marion Roberts as one of those pictured. In fact, it was Tom Burchard. Here's the photo with the correct identification..d

The second correction involves one of the changes to Division C - Lapidary, CC-7. After much discussion, the URC decided to delete the creative class definition and the entire CC-7 class. The definition for Modern Cabochons was changed to "Modern and Creative", thus allowing Creative cabs in all classes that allow Modern cabs - CC-1 through CC-4. These changes become effective on January 1, 2010.

## KICKING OFF THE 2010 ENDOWMENT FUND DRAWING

by Bill Pattillo, Endowment Fund Chair

With our next AFMS Convention scheduled for mid-June in La Habra, CA, time is short for the year 2010 and the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. We need to get busy and get things rolling.

First off, let me introduce myself. I'm the new chairman of the Endowment Committee. My name is Bill Pattillo, perhaps better known as "Mr Rock Food Table". You may have seen my wife Lois and me at many of the shows in and around the South Central and Southeast Federations and just recently at the AFMS show in Billings, MT. We've been collecting and displaying "Rock Food" since 1983 and our collection and display continues to grow. I've taken over the chairmanship from Dee Holland and want to thank him for his hard work this past year.

In order to make the 2010 drawing a success, we need donations. Ideally, we'd like to receive at least two really good donations from each of our regional federations. It would be nice if each had a value of at least \$125 as an incentive for people to purchase tickets! All proceeds from the drawing go to the AFMS Endowment Fund where they are invested. The interest from these investments is used to finance various AFMS programs that benefit you and your club such as purchasing slide and video programs for your federation library and funding the Junior Activities merit badge program.

And now, drum roll please, here is prize #1 in the 2010 drawing:

This is a lovely sterling silver pendant crafted by Ted Magee and composed of 2 cabochons and one faceted citrine. The pendant measures 4 1/2 inches in length. Although shown on a silver chain, the chain is not included. It has an estimated value of \$125 (CFMS).



We'll run the drawing the same way we did this year. All the tickets sold within each federation will be kept in separate bins and we'll first pull one ticket from each bin. That way, each federation will have at least one prize winner! After the initial drawing, all the remaining tickets will be dumped together and the rest of the prizes will be drawn.

We're keeping the price of our tickets at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You can purchase them from your regional chairman by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Endowment" along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to the person listed below for your federation. I've not yet received an affirmative response from all of my "salespeople" so if your federation is not yet listed, please stay tuned.

Send your donations or contact me with questions at:

Bill Pattillo, 619 Wright Street; Robstown, Texas 78380-3815  
<bill@rockfoodtable.com> 361-387-5190 home 361-739-6767 cell

Order your tickets by mail from the following:

Eastern Federation: Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302  
Midwest Federation: John Washburn, 107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563  
Southeast Federation: Betty James, 169A Florence Circle, Florence, MS

We'll tell you about additional prizes as we receive them, so "watch these pages". You will also be able to see full color photos of the prizes on the AFMS website <www.amfed.org>.

## THANK YOU

by Trudy Martin, CRLC Public Relations Chair <www.crlc.ca>

On behalf of the Canadian Rockhounds who attended the AFMS / NFMS show and field trips in Billings, Montana this summer, may I express our sincere thanks for the hospitality and friendship shown to us during our stay. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships formed, proving once again that there is no border separating rockhounds.



We can only hope to return the hospitality if and when your members come north to Canada. We invite you all to come visit us the first weekend in May for the Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club's 50th show. When you cross the border - just follow the Yellow Brick Road to Calgary and our Golden Jubilee show. The Welcome Mat will be out.

### 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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### CONTENT - LETTERS

EDITORIAL COMMENTS - SUBMISSIONS  
ANY COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OR FORMAT OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE

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## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MESSAGE

by Fran Sick, Public Relations Chair



Whether your Public Relations endeavors are by word of mouth, newspapers, newsletters, magazines, radio, television, the various publications directed to your local population or whatever other method you can think of there are a few key elements that will help you get the best results possible from your efforts.

1. Make sure your message is a positive one. Bad, or poorly presented, information can do more harm than none at all.

2. Know your target audience and present your message in a way that is attractive and attention grabbing for that particular group. What appeals to scientific minded folks will certainly not appeal to potential junior club members. The better you know your target audience the higher your probability of success.

3. Be brief. State the purpose of your message using as few words as possible. Messages that are too long become boring and convey the message that your organization is boring.

4. Cover your topic clearly. Be specific. Don't try to fit too much into one message. State the purpose of your message exactly and be very clear about the desired response you are looking for.

5. When using photos choose carefully. Make sure your photos are very clear, accurately labeled and not too "busy". A photo of one spectacular mineral with its collector or one beautiful piece of jewelry with the person who made it and maybe their lapidary instructor is more attention grabbing than one with too many people or too much going on.

6. Always ask someone to proof read any printed information before submitting it for publication. And if your proof reader just happens to be a non-rockhound who then asks if he or she can join you at your next meeting, show, field trip or workshop you know you have a winner.

7. Provide clear, accurate contact information along with the time, date and location of whatever activity you are promoting, as well as an enthusiastic invitation to guests, especially for special events.

And finally, if you have any other ideas, tips or suggestions I would love to hear from you.



## HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Junior Activities Chair

### Supporting the Birthstone Stamps Campaign with Your Juniors

For some time now, Wendell Mohr has been encouraging us all to lobby the U.S. Postal Service via the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to create a set of U.S. postage stamps around the theme of the 12 birthstones.



Wendell is AFMS Commemorative Stamp Chairman, and many have supported him in his effort. For instance, AFMS Past President Shirley Leeson and President Joy Bourne have spread the word; in fact, I spent a little time manning a booth at the 2008 Tucson show, where Shirley, Dee Holland, Carolyn and Steve Weinberger, Bob Carlson, and others were diligently distributing literature to all passers-by beneath a large poster depicting the traditional birthstones. And Bob Jones devoted his entire "On the Rocks" column in the recent July 2009 issue of Rock & Gem magazine to this effort.

I encourage all clubs to turn this into a special project for their pebble pups and junior members. This presents a

perfect opportunity to teach kids about gemstones via the ever-popular avenue of birthstones. Hold a group talk about gems in general and birthstones in particular, or assign each child to learn about their own birthstones and report back at the next meeting. Our Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program offers a "Gemstone Lore & Legend" badge, and unit 13.2 for that badge focuses on birthstones. So you can also help your club's junior members earn an FRA badge! Information about birthstones is contained within our Badge Manual, and Bob Jones' article referenced above tells where each birthstone can be collected within the United States, along with other fascinating tidbits about birthstones.

As a capstone to the exercise of learning about birthstones, you can then teach about the political process by having your club's kids draft a group petition, individual letters, or (preferably) both to mail to: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 1735 N. Lynn Street – Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432. Also, see <http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm> on our AFMS web site for helpful info to use in this endeavor, including a colorful key to birthstones for each month, courtesy of wonderful photos from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The CSAC receives 50,000 proposals for new stamps or stamp sets each year, so they need to hear from a lot of voices to support and approve any one proposal. Let them hear the voices of children across America!

Working with your club's kids in this effort is one way to educate about gemstones, about the political process, and, as always, about having fun!

## AN INTRODUCTION

by John Martin, 2010 Conservation & Legislation Chair

As the newly appointed chairman for the AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee for the year of 2010, I am coming



in on the heels of John Wright who is a hard act to follow. I have my work cut out and it is a big job to carry on what he has been doing for the past several years. With the political climate our country is currently in, it demands that we keep current on the issues and legislation

that our elected legislatures are imposing on Public Land Management and Public Land Usage.

As the Committee Chair I will do my best to keep the Federation and its members informed and current on these issues that have a direct and indirect impact on the activity of Rockhounding at the national and regional levels. In order to accomplish this, it can not be a one person show, the area of coverage is too large and there

is way too much activity for one person to adequately cover. I am asking for help in this endeavor, so when anyone hears of proposed or pending legislation or any legal action that is of interest to Rockhounding please let me know and I will attempt to research the issues and distribute the facts to the Federation and its members.

As the Chair for the AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee I am looking for proactive persons in each of the Federations, who are passionate about keeping our collecting areas open and accessible for future generations to enjoy, to serve on the committee as a representative from the respective Federations acting as a watchdog for Public Land Usage Legislation and Legal Actions. If you are the type of person who is willing to serve on this committee please contact me through your regional federation for recommendation and together we can accomplish the important effort that lies ahead of us.

John Martin

AFMS Conservation & Legislation Committee Chair  
<jmjr@antelecom.net>

## THE 2010 AFMS WEB SITE CONTEST

*by Phyllis George, AFMS Ad Hoc Web Site Contest Chair*



The 2009 Webmasters Contest was a great success. The webmasters of forty-six Web sites across the country entered the contest. Seven regional finalists competed at the AFMS level, and the results were published in the September newsletter.

It was an extremely close contest—only one point separated the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places, and the two sites tying for third were only a quarter point away from 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Now that the word is out and people are aware that there is a club Web Site Contest, I feel confident that there may be twice as many entries for the 2010 contest. The name of the contest is now officially changed to “AFMS Web Site Contest,” and the Entry Form, Score Sheet, and Score Sheet Guidelines are all greatly modified—the judges and Contest Chairs evaluated the forms used during the 2009 contest and suggested major improvements. So the 2010 contest is even more focused on creating Web sites that greatly benefit their clubs.

All of last year’s regional Webmasters Contest Committee Members agreed to continue in their positions for 2010 (except me, and Dale Watts is taking over as Committee Chair for the Rocky Mountain Federation), and they are the ones running the regional Web Site Contests. The Committee Members receive the entries, they forward the entries to the judges for that region, they receive from the judges the completed score sheets, and they rank the results and award the first-place plaque and the certificates (places

one through ten and honorable mention) at the Bulletin Editors’ and Webmasters’ Breakfast at their regional federation’s annual show. The first-place entry is forwarded to the AFMS level for judging.

The Committee Members will be notifying the regional newsletter editor plus the webmasters, editors, and club presidents in their region about the details of the contest, the due date for entries, and of the schedule for their regional contest. Each Committee Member sets the due dates for his or her federation’s contest.

The regional federation Web Site chairs are as follows:

California - Merryann O'Neill  
<mvoneill@comcast.net>  
Eastern - Dan Imel  
<lapidry@aol.com>  
Midwest - Cindy Root  
<d-root@sbcglobal.net>  
Northwest - Cheri George  
<lizardwoman3@yahoo.com>  
Rocky Mountain - Dale Watts  
<d.watts@oksoccer.com>  
South Central - Don Shurtz  
<don.shurtz@gmail.com>  
Southeast - Jim Flora  
<jim-flora@alltel.net>

Contact the Committee Member for your region for information about the contest and the deadlines. This information varies by region according to when their annual show is scheduled.

Webmasters wishing to enter their web sites into the contest should download the contest Score Sheet Guidelines, the Entry Form, and the Score Sheet form from the AFMS website <[www.amfed.org/web/webmasters\\_contest.htm](http://www.amfed.org/web/webmasters_contest.htm)>.

These are in PDF format, and they can be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader®.

To enter the contest, the webmaster needs to fill out the Entry Form completely and fill out the information requested in the top part of the Score Sheet, both front and back. These forms can be filled-in on your computer and saved to your hard drive. Note: Use Acrobat Reader 9 to be able to modify the saved forms later if necessary. Send the TWO completed forms as e-mail attachments to your regional Committee Member before the due date for your region. **IMPORTANT:** Every entrant and every judge must thoroughly read and understand the Score Sheet Guidelines. This document explains exactly what each scored item is looking for and why it is important to a good Web site.

Having two judges for each region worked out quite well last year, so I plan to do the same again this year. Neither judge will be judging entries from his or her own region. The two judges’ scores for each contestant will be averaged. If you are a current (or former) webmaster or are very Web-site savvy, please help make the 2010 contest a success by volunteering a little of your time to act as a judge. Read the Score Sheet Guidelines to see what the judges will be looking for on the sites that they judge, and contact me at <[pgeorge4@comcast.net](mailto:pgeorge4@comcast.net)> to help this new contest be an even bigger success in its second year.



## UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

*from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Coordinator*

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2009	April 17-19 San Jose, CA	Oct. 17-18 Bristol, CT	May 16-17 Berea, OH	AFMS July 30 - Aug. 2 Billings MT	Oct. 2 - 3 Roswell, NM	Oct. 10-11 Temple, TX	Sept. 18 - 19 Jacksonville, FL
2010	AFMS June 18-20 La Habre, CA	March 6-7 Newark, DE				Nov. 13 - 14 DeRidder, LA	
2011		AFMS July 7-10 Syracuse, NY					

## MINUTES OF THE 62ND ANNUAL MEETING

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July 29, 2009  
Billings, Montana

The annual meeting of the AFMS was called to order by president Joy Bourne at 9 AM on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, in the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings, Montana. Betty James gave the invocation, and Jay Bowman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Memorial tributes were given for those members who had passed away during the past year by Joy, other officers, and the presidents and vice presidents of the regional societies.

Joy welcomed all those present, and spoke particularly about all the clubs which had active junior groups. Paul Heesacker, president of the host Northwest Federation, also welcomed us, and said that Doug True, show chairman and past Northwest Federation president, was at the show, along with many members of the Billings Gem and Mineral Club, working on set-up. Joy then introduced the current officers, the directors, and those past AFMS presidents who were in attendance.

Anne Cook, secretary, reported that because all officers were present and all directors were either present or had sent substitutes, a quorum was present. Bob Carlson moved to adopt the rules of the meeting, as printed in the program. MOTION PASSED. Richard Jaeger moved to adopt the agenda, also in the program. MOTION PASSED. Dee Holland was appointed parliamentarian. The minutes of the 2008 annual meeting were printed in the program; Lauren Williams moved to accept them as printed. MOTION PASSED. Reports from the president, president-elect, all five regional vice presidents, and the secretary were in the packet, and none had anything to add. Treasurer Pat LaRue distributed her report; it was filed for review.

The directors then gave their reports. California president C.J. Quitoriano had a report in the packet; she was not present, but Ruth Bailey was her substitute. California vice president Fred Ott was not present, but Shirley Leeson served as substitute. Eastern president Mary Bateman was present, with a report in the packet and nothing to add; this was also true of Rose Blue, Midwest president, Judith Washburn, Midwest vice president, Northwest president Paul Heesacker, South Central president Ike House, and Southeast president Betty James. Rocky Mountain president Stan Nowak was not present and had no report in the packet; his substitute was Bob Carlson, and Rocky Mountain vice president Yonis Lone Eagle was represented by Jim Hurlbut.

Joy then called for the reports of committee chairs. There was no report from Rockhound of the Year chair Loretta Ogden, but reports were in packet, with no additions made, for Carolyn Weinberger as Newsletter Editor, Mike Kokinos as auditor (with appreciation from treasurer Pat LaRue), John Wright as both Boundaries chair and Conservation and Legislation chair, Linda Jaeger as Bulletin Editors' Advisory chair, Steve Weinberger for both Bylaws Revisory and Central Office, and Wendell Mohr for Commemorative Stamps. There was no report from

Kitty Starbuck for the Bulletin Editors' Hall of Fame. John Washburn, All-American Club chair, said that there were 2 clubs which had won gold awards, 6 silver, and 4 bronze, all of which would be presented at the banquet Saturday evening, and he had a booklet for clubs to help them put together the needed material to enter the contest. Dee Holland, as Endowment Fund chair, said that there was a report in the packet, and the drawing for the donated prizes would be held Saturday afternoon, after the faceted stone auction. Reports were the packet, with no additions made, for Shirley Leeson as Historian, Bob Jones as International Relations chair, Jim Brace-Thompson as Junior Activities chair, Dee Holland as Judges' Training chair, Shirley Leeson for Long-Range Planning, Steve Weinberger as photographer, Jay Bowman for Publications, Fran Sick for Public Relations, Ted Rieth for Safety, Anne Cook for Uniform Rules Eligibility Files, Marve Starbuck for Ways & Means, Marty Hart for the Web Site, Dick Pankey for Inter-Regional Field Trips, Ron Carman for the Competition Study, and Phyllis George for the Webmaster Contest. Dee Holland, for the Scholarship Foundation, had a report in the packet, and introduced Jon Spunaugle as the new treasurer for the Foundation. Bob Livingston, as Show Consultant, had report in the packet, but a correction to the show date for 2010 in California was made to June 16 to 20 at La Habra, rather than the previously announced dates and place. Show flyers were handed out. Barbara Jacobsen, chair of the Uniform Rules Committee, reported on the previous day's meeting, at which rules for a new Beading category had been adopted, rules for cabochons revised and several smaller changes made; they will be sent to all Federations, and posted on the AFMS web site, and will go into effect next January.

There was no old business. Under new business, Bob Carlson moved to update the Operating Procedures as printed in the packet. MOTION PASSED. Shirley Leeson presented the rationale behind the proposal for liability insurance for the Federation and its officers, which had been sent to all officers and directors; she then moved its adoption; MOTION PASSED. Emerson Tucker presented the 2009-10 budget, and Bob Carlson moved its adoption; MOTION PASSED. The slate of officers for 2009-10 was presented; Bob Carlson moved to accept it by acclamation; MOTION PASSED.

Several announcements were made, including mention of upcoming conventions. Times and places for the live faceted stone auction, the Scholarship Foundation meeting, and the ALAA meeting were given. Carolyn Weinberger suggested that those judging or coordinating the Web Site competition contest at the regional or AFMS level should not enter the competition, as there may appear to be a conflict of interest.

Thanks were given to all, from the local club host and host Federation, who had worked so hard. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Cook, secretary

## BE SAFE — BE WELL

*by Don Monroe, SFMS Safety Chair*

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### Mow, Mow — Mow Once More

We are now beginning my favorite time of the year — fall. Most everyone likes the fall for many different reasons. There is football and other sports. It signals the approach of the hunting season, maybe fishing in your area and lots of other fun things.

For many of us it is the time for the last mowing of the yard for the year. I, for one, am tired of the yard and all that goes with it. Now we have leaves falling and some really tough weeds and we must focus on the fact that the appearance of the yard when we finally finish our work will be the appearance that we must live with until next spring.

By now you are asking what does this have to do with safety. Some experts state that the last mowing of the year is the most hazardous. To support this theory, think about the following situations.

We have been using our lawn equipment for several months and it probably needs maintenance.

My rotary mower is now terminally dull and requires much exertion to get through the really tough grass which is hard on my back and knees. (O.K. I know I am a senior citizen and need to back off this stuff, but getting help here in the mountains is "mission impossible"). At this time of the year much debris has found its way into the yard and some of it can become a missile when propelled by your mower. College friend of my vintage was mowing and struck a coat hanger which, in turn, penetrated his groin causing pain, anguish, and injury. He lived but it was a long recovery. In our yard we have black walnuts and hickory nuts which make dandy little weapons. Now, more than ever, wear your safety glasses.

We have briars, crabapple bushes and other stickers that will draw blood. In addition, thorns can really create a nasty infection.

Depending where you live you may be disposing of brush and weeds by burning or by mulching. I use a "chopper" which brings a whole category of opportunities for injury. Mine is a large one and it would love to get your arm into its mouth. The noise level is deafening and the chips it spits out will bite you. I will not even talk about burning.

We do some of it and if you have reached adulthood without a working knowledge of the dangers of fire, I really do not want to live near you. If you need a short course in fire complete with "war stories" you must meet my brother. During his years of service with the DNR (department of natural resources) he was involved in several projects involving controlled burning. When "controlled" is not part of the exercise, the results are very impressive.

There is much more that could be said but I think you are getting the drift. If you need additional instruction, run your mower over a yellow jackets nest and they will at least teach you how to run.

## 2009 AFMS COMMITTEES

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Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2008-09. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

All American Club  
John Washburn  
<jrwashburn2@msn.com>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year  
Loretta Ogden  
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AFMS Newsletter  
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Boundaries  
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<osjw@datasync.com>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame  
Kitty Starbuck  
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Bulletin Editors Advisory  
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Bylaws Revisory  
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Central Office Administrator  
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Commemorative Stamps  
Wendell Mohr  
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Conservation and Legislation  
John Wright (see Boundaries)

Endowment Fund  
Dee Holland  
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Financial Investment  
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Historian  
Shirley Leeson  
<shirleyleeson@msn.com>

International Relations  
Bob Jones  
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Judges Training Seminar  
Dee Holland (See Endowment)

Junior Programs  
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Long Range Planning  
Shirley Leeson (See Historian)

Name Badges  
Frank Mullaney  
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Nominating  
Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

Parliamentarian  
Dee Holland (See Endowment)

Past President's Advisory  
Shirley Leeson (see Historian)

Photography  
Steve Weinberger  
(see Bylaws Revisory)

Program Competition  
Marge Collins  
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Publications  
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Safety  
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Ways and Means  
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Website/Webmaster  
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Ad Hoc Web Site Contest  
Phyllis George  
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Ad Hoc Competition Study  
Ron Carman  
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip  
Dick Pankey  
<dickpankey@juno.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation  
Dee Holland, President  
(see Endowment Fund)  
Joy Bourne, Vice President  
Ruth Bailey, Secretary  
Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer

## THIRD TIME TO RETIRE

by Bob and Nancy Hicks



We have worked 11 years for Teton Valley Ranch Camp which is the only summer camp with a full time lapidary program, as near as we can determine, and has existed for 71 years. There are about 12,000 summer camps in the U.S. You can find more information about the camp at TVRCamp.org There was an article about the camp during the 80s in Rock and Gem. The camp is located about an hour east of Jackson Hole, WY.

We have enjoyed working with the 11-16 year old campers. 136 boys for a month, and 134 girls for a second month. Then there is a Family camp for a week. We teach 8 campers in the morning, and 8 in the afternoon. Camp goes from early June to late August.

The cabin we lived in is half lapidary and half living quarters. 19 ft. x 60 ft. New in 2005. The camp was started in Kelly, Wyoming across from the Teton mountains. When the camp part of the ranch was put up for sale, the camp was moved to a ranch close to Dubois, Wyoming, then the permanent location was found in a valley closer to Dubois. The first buildings were built in 2005, and have been added to each summer. Fun to see the camp grow as well as watching the kids grow from year to year. Many of the campers come for 4 or 5 years.

Equipment consists of 2 Genies, 6 double 8" arbors, 3 trim saws, and a 16" rock saw. We conducted day hikes for petrified wood to the Wiggins Fork River 24 miles north of Dubois.

When we first started, in an unheated building, it was too cold for the dop wax to stick so we taught the campers to do lapidary without dop sticks.

We will be happy to give our successor some detailed info on our methods.

We learned about the job 12 years ago from an exchange club newsletter. More information about contacts has been published in the September, 2009 RMFMS newsletter. It is time for us to pass on the fun job. If it is of interest to you, call or email us at <Ronan10@aol.com> or 918-371-2406.

Other activities at camp are horses, learning to ride, performing various events in a weekly rodeo, trips to the mountains, hiking, crafts, fishing, fly tying, riflery archery, photography, discovery, and current things like flower identification.



## A.L.A.A. - NOW MORE THAN EVER!

by Carolyn Weinberger, Ye Olde Ed

With the continuing assault of our ability to collect on public lands (you didn't think the Omnibus Bill passed earlier this year would be the end of this, did you?), we all need to support the American Lands Access Association (ALAA). As rockhounds, we basically have only two ways to try and influence our legislators.... we can individually write letters to the good folks in Congress and we can work through an organization such as the ALAA to lobby these same folks who ultimately vote on these legislative packages. If your club is a non-profit organization, it is forbidden to lobby....but the ALAA can do so for you!

Individual membership dues are \$25 per year; clubs are \$50 per year. Your membership fees go a long way towards getting "our" word out to our elected officials. In addition, the ALAA is exploring ways of becoming more proactive rather than reactive and working with our leaders to enact legislation favorable to collectors. With your financial support, and some hard work, the ALAA believes that this can happen.

We joined the ALAA when it first was formed back in 1991. We remained members throughout the long fight to help defeat the "Baucus Bill". At that time, membership dues paid for a lobbyist to work on the "inside" of Washington circles and, along with a letter writing campaign similar to the one mounted last year, the effort was successful. We dropped our membership about 5 years ago when the organization, became virtually inactive. Like so many of you, we could not see spending good, hard earned money on an organization that did nothing.

In the last few months there has been a major and positive change in the organization with new, upbeat leadership, an active newsletter and website. The group has joined the Blue Ribbon Coalition and ALAA members receive almost daily communication from them about proposed legislation, hearings and initiatives. The partnership with Blue Ribbon is a good fit, especially since it gives members in the area where new rules are proposed information about what's going on in their back yard....and a chance to try and do something about it in person.

And as a result of this new initiative, we've rejoined the group! Won't you join us?

### AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*Protecting the Public Lands for the Public*

Please enroll me as a member of the ALAA. Annual membership fee is \$25.00  
Annual membership fee for clubs is \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobby Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Remit fees to: ALAA

Ruth Bailey  
2857 Addison Place  
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

*The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are*