



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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Burley, ID 83318
 Permit No. 9

TIME VALUE
 PLEASE DO NOT
 DELAY

It is AFMS policy that its name and logos may not be used for commercial purposes. Please notify the Central Office of any violations.

A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 63, Number 6 – May 2010
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

TWO FABULOUS NEW PRIZES!

Time is running out for you to purchase tickets for the 2010 Endowment Fund Drawing. Thus far we have nine fabulous prizes that could be yours IF you hold one of the winning tickets!

The latest donations for the drawing are:

Prize #8 is a heart-shaped blue topaz pendant made and donated by Skeeter and Joyce Kish. The topaz is 10mm and weighs 4.5 carats. It is wire wrapped in 14k gold filled wire. Estimated value \$100. (MWF)



Prize #9: A necklace with earrings made from large spring-green cultured pearls with gold-filled accents. The pendant is a free form cabochon of Australian Rainforest jasper. The set was made and donated by Regina Kapta and has an estimated value of \$150. (MWF)



The drawing for these and the other prizes will occur during the CFMS/

AFMS Convention this June in California with the results announced during the Awards Banquet on Saturday, June 19th.

Interest from the Endowment Fund is used to support a variety of AFMS activities including the Junior Badge Program, the Judges Training Program, and the AFMS Program

from Carolyn Weinberger, EFMS Endowment Fund Representative

Competition and Library. With interest rates as low as they are, it's important for all of us to purchase drawing tickets that will ultimately add to the principal that generates the interest that can be used for these programs.

Tickets for the drawing are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You can purchase tickets from your federation representative, either in person or by sending your check (payable to AFMS Endowment Fund) to the person listed below. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number so we can notify you if you win one of the prizes.

California Federation -
 Colleen McGann
 PO Box 224; Santa Clara, CA 95052

Eastern Federation -
 Carolyn Weinberger
 PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Midwest Federation -
 John Washburn
 107 Deer Creek Rd; Rochester, IL 62563

Northwest -
 Evelyn Cataldo
 99509 E. Brandon Drive, Kennewick, WA 99338

Rocky Mountain -
 Richard Jaeger
 3515 E 88thSt; Tulsa, OK 74137-2602

South Central -
 Josie Middleton
 3920 Winchester Dr; Round Rock, TX 78665

Southeast -
 Betty James
 169A Florence Circle; Florence, MS 39073

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

From the Rectangular Office	2
Silver Bullets	2
AFMS/CFMS Convention News.....	3
All-Federation Trip to Blue Forest	3
Junior Activities.....	4
Safety Note	4
Inter-Regional Field Trips	5
Club Rockhounds of the Year	5
Lapis Lazuli.....	6
AFMS Committee Chairs	7
A.L.A.A.	8
The Collecting Cycle.....	8
AFMS Code of Ethics.....	8



WANTED!

from the AFMS Central Office

A huge round of applause to those club officers who have taken the time to send us your updated list of officers for 2010. If you've not yet done so, please take the 5 minutes needed to do so.

E-mail the name of your club along with the name and address for your officers to me at the AFMS Central Office <central_office@amfed.org> or send in via USPS to me at the address shown on page 2.

THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING
SEVEN REGIONAL
FEDERATIONS



OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT
EMERSON TUCKER
<president@amfed.org>



PRESIDENT-ELECT
BOB MILLER
<KanBrock@aol.com>



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
ROCKY MCCALL
<rm711@tgi.net>



2ND VICE PRESIDENT
ANN MONROE
<annmonroe@windstream.net>



3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JUDY BECK
<jbeck@moweryclinic.com>



4TH VICE PRESIDENT
MARION ROBERTS
<mroberts@bigvalley.net>



5TH VICE PRESIDENT
MATT CHARSKY
<Charsky.Matthew@epa.net>

SECRETARY
ANNE COOK
684 QUILLIAMS RD
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44121
216-381-9003
<secretary@amfed.org>

TREASURER
PAT LARUE
PO Box 1657
RIALTO, CA 92377-1657
909-874-5664
<bplarue@earthlink.net>

FROM THE RECTANGULAR OFFICE

by Emerson Tucker, President

It was an enjoyable weekend making new friends and visiting with old ones at the Eastern Federation Regional Convention in Stanton, Delaware in early March. I was impressed with the number of people attending the show and the material that the many dealers had to offer. The display cases were impressive and some had material that I don't always see in my part of the country. I especially liked the fluorescent display.

A big bonus for me was when Ken Casey, President of the Delaware Mineralogical Society, headed me in the right direction so I could see the mineral display at the University of Delaware Mineralogical Museum. Many of the minerals on display were collected by Irene du Pont and donated to the museum in 1965. While there I was able to visit with the past curator, Dr. Peter Leavens and the present curator, Dr Sharon Fitzgerald. So what I thought would be a short visit turned into a much longer educational, enjoyable and rewarding visit for me.

The cracker barrel session at the convention was very lively and very interesting. One subject that was discussed at length was how to get the younger generation involved in our hobby. Some comments that were made that when members present programs at schools, the schools may have a limited or almost non-existent collection of rocks in their classroom collection. How can this be changed? Should the AFMS be funding a program to improve this situation? Should the AFMS be funding these programs instead of their present scholarship program? Many ideas were floated around and no final conclusions were reached except that maybe the federations and clubs need to be more helpful in providing materials to the schools.

I briefly commented about some of the programs that are being done here in Texas. I also felt that the local clubs should be the ones initiating the programs with the schools and providing material for them to use in their programs.

A few days ago in a conversation with Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair, he pointed out that there are several programs that should interest junior member that are sponsored by the AFMS. The AFMS/FRA (Future Rockhounds of America) Badge Program is one program available to members.

But these programs are for members. So how do we get the kids in the classroom interested enough to want to become junior members and that may mean getting their parents interested enough, too. One thought might be that besides giving the students only a tumbled rock to also give each one of them a page or half-page paper outlining the programs that are available to them by joining the local rock club. Maybe the paper could continue to hold the kids' attention, but it also might interest the parents enough to support the children's activities.

I could continue to go on and on with this subject but what are your thoughts? Please send your comments to Jim and me.



SILVER BULLETS: WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS AND NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

by Beth Myers from CFMS Newsletter, March 2010

Once a new individual attends one of your General Membership meetings, how do you "make them feel welcome" and make them excited about joining your society? Here is how one society has developed a process that is VERY impressive:

Prior to each General Membership meeting, the society conducts a New Member Orientation at which all new members (as well as current members) are invited and encouraged to attend. At the start of each orientation, each new member receives a 3-ring binder containing 77 pages of information including:

- * A brief history of the Society
- * A list of Officers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons
- * Field Trip information and schedule of trips
- * Lapidary information, shop location and hours
- * Camp Paradise and Zzyzx information and photos
- * AFMS and CFMS information
- * Junior Program
- * Education Program
- * Rock and Gem Shows
- * Scholarship Information
- * Quartzsite and Tucson information, etc.

continued on page 3

AFMS / CFMS CONVENTION NEWS

by Cheri George

This is for all of you Rockhounds out there!!

The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society is cordially inviting each and every one of you to come to the 2010 CFMS/AFMS Show. We promise that you will have a great time, see some old friends, and meet some new friends. Bring your exhibit and let us see the wonderful things you can do and have done with your hobby. We want to see you all there, and are looking forward to a wonderful three day weekend.

June 18, 19, 20 2010 10 am – 5 pm

Southern California University of
Health Sciences Campus
16200 E Amber Valley Dr; Whittier, CA

Daily Admission - \$6
3-day pass - \$15
Juniors under 14 free when accompanied
by a paying adult

Free parking

Host Hotel: Anaheim Park Hotel
222 W Houston Ave
Fullerton, CA 92832
714-992-1700 or Toll Free 1-877-491-1011

Come on out and make the AFMS PROUD of
all her member societies!!

**AFMS/CFMS
2010 Gem Show**
Hosted by:
North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society



Games
Displays
Raffle Prizes
Gems & Jewelry
Sponsoring:
La Habra Youth




Fossils
Kids Room
Food

Admission: \$6.00
Children under 14 Free
(with an adult)


**Free
Parking**

HIDDEN TREASURES

June 18 - 20, 2010
Fri. - Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



So. CA University of Health Sciences
16200 E. Amber Valley Dr. Whittier, CA 92604
Information: 626-330-9674 • sochsc@uhsd.edu
or 909-599-0462 • www.nocogems.com
cfmsnc.org • nocogems.com



ALL FEDERATION FIELD TRIP TO BLUE FOREST AREA IN WYOMING

by Doug True, Trip Leader

Time is fast approaching for the Memorial Day weekend trip to the Blue Forest Area in Wyoming. Directions to this dig site are as listed. I will be only give directions to the turn off from County Road. 8. The reason for this is there are a number of people that always have to get there first and or will come in and park in the middle of the road or an area that would not be appropriate for laying out the parking area. When people arrive to this point there will be markers giving directions to the dig area and to the camp area if different from dig site. (being worked out with the BLM)



If you are coming from the east: From Farson, Wyoming go east 21.3 miles on Wyoming 28 to Sweetwater County Road 8, turn right and go north 11.3 miles, on the right will be a dirt road. At this point follow the markers we will have for set out for you.

If you are coming from the west on I-80 take exit 83 west of Green River, to Wyoming 372 drive 27 miles north and turn right on Wyoming 28, drive 6.7 miles east to County Rd 8, turn left and drive 11.3 miles.

Check your Wyoming map and find Farson and Green River and work from these locations.



There are number of items being discussed with the BLM at this point and will be updated as we get closer to dig time. There might even be some special instructions when you arrive.

Questions? E-mail me at
<dtruefossils@yahoo.com>

Need more details? Look in the December 2009 AFMS Newsletter (available for download at <www.amfed.org/news/news2009.htm>.

SILVER BULLETS

continued from page 2

And, just recently, the entire program was placed on a CD and is projected on a screen during the orientation. It doesn't get any better than this!

Finally, once the new members begin attending the General Membership meetings, each of this society's officers are encouraged to sit next to them to help them feel "welcomed"

Purpose of the AFMS:

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

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Address corrections and changes
Subscription Information
Distribution Questions
Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year
Remit payment to the
AFMS Central Office
Checks should be made payable to
"AFMS"

ADDRESS MAINTENANCE AND MAIL LABELING ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFMS CENTRAL OFFICE.
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>

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>

DEADLINE IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION (I.E. APRIL 1 FOR THE MAY ISSUE)

Material in this Newsletter may be duplicated for non-commercial purposes provided credit is given this publication and the author. For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted for approval.

HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

Attracting Kids to Your Society



In March, I was invited by the Mother Lode Mineral Society to moderate a Juniors Activities Roundtable at their annual club show in Turlock, California. We had such a great time exchanging ideas with juniors leaders from several clubs in northern California that I'm hoping we might hold a similar roundtable at the upcoming AFMS/

CFMS Show & Convention in June. In the meantime, over the course of the next three months, I'll share some key components of that roundtable discussion. Those three key components revolved around the following topics: How do we attract kids to our clubs? How do we then form and implement a juniors' program? And finally, where can we turn for ready-made sources of kids' activities?

I'll start this month with how to attract kids to your society. Growing a youth program presupposes one very big thing, namely, that you already have a roomful of kids in your club. Many clubs tell me this is not the case. Some may have one or two junior members or none at all. How do you reverse that? Here are a few suggestions.

Start locally. If you have a single child, you have a start! Encourage that child's parents to network with friends who have kids and bring their friends along to the next meeting. Just make sure you have something exciting for the kids at that meeting, along with rock, mineral, or fossil prizes, posters, or activity sheets for them to walk home with.

Make your show fun for kids—and follow up! If your club has committed to a kids program, demonstrate that commitment at your very next show by making kids the show theme and centerpiece. Have a large Kids Booth or Activity Area and heavily promote a theme of kids' activities in all your show publicity. (You're also more likely to pique the attention of the local newspaper and get a nice pre-show write-up if you focus on how your show is family-oriented.) Build in touch-stones, interactive displays, and activities, and involve kids in other ways (helping to run the kids booth, competing for ribbons or other prizes with displays, etc.). Finally, in the kids area, have informational handouts about your club and its kids activities readily available, along with sign-up sheets for parents interested in more info—and have a club member follow up immediately after the show to invite them to your very next meeting, workshop, or other event.

Maintain a focus on kids. Most newspapers publish (either in print or on their web site) a

SAFETY NOTE FOR SPRING

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

Take your Benadryl with you!

Well it was a hard winter by most standards in the central and south and eastern U.S. It even snowed three times at our house in Houston and froze hard enough to break pipes in several houses in our neighborhood. Not that I'm complaining - after all we get PLENTY of summer for 6+ months every year. With that being said the cold weather really backed up the spring bloom and as a result EVERYTHING started blooming last week!

So my Bradford pears, dog wood, peach and red buds are in full bloom. Weeds are taking over the hibernating grass and have tons of little flowers, my pine is pollinating and so are some oaks and maples across the street. AND to top it all off Cedar keeps blowing in from Hill Country.

Now the weather was just perfect this weekend so I figured it was time to get out and at least do some yard work - about 8 hours worth. This was after a land clearing project in Hill Country from the previous weekend. As a result of proximity and increased respiratory activity I did myself in. All those allergens caught up with me and just about knocked me out. It wasn't exactly an asthma attack, but my eyes were swollen, my nasal passages were swollen up so that I couldn't breathe except out of my mouth, and I kept coughing up crud!

OK - so the moral of the story is that I should have taken Benadryl® prior to engaging in such activities. Not to say that I wouldn't have had some impact from all that pollen, but at least I could have mitigated the violent response my body had to it all. Luckily I was able to nurse my bloated head on the couch while watching conference basketball tournaments.

However if I was in the field and had such a problem, especially one that could have led to an asthma attack, then I would have been in trouble. Keep that in mind as you head out on your first hunt of this spring!

Prepare, be safe and breathe easy!!!

listing of club news and forthcoming events, and many clubs will put in an announcement listing when and where the next meeting is and the guest speaker for the night. Take this a step further by including a line on a highlighted kids' activity for the night. At every club meeting and at every club event (club show, picnic, holiday dinner), make sure time is devoted to kids, with an activity, a rock give-away, a show-and-tell, or anything else that tells them they, too, have a place in your club. And have a tab in your club web site devoted to highlighting youth activities in your club—and perhaps providing a profile of your "Junior Member of the Month" or "Junior of the Year."

Create and circulate a Kids Club flyer. The "Coquina Kids" of the Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society in Florida have created a wonderfully colorful, picture- and photo-filled three-fold flyer highlighting their kids activities, with a membership application form on the back fold. Create one for your club and then have a supply at your Welcome table and Kids Booth at your show, at club meetings, and spread around the community—at the library, in schools, at Boys and Girls Clubs, at the YMCA, and elsewhere.

Go to where the kids are. With your Kids Club flyer in hand, take a supply and reach out to Boy and Girl Scout troops, Big Brother/Big Sister programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA facilities, etc.

Reach out to schools and forge connections with area science teachers. Build a following and a community among teachers by maintaining an e-mail directory, giving teachers free rock samples and posters, offering to give classroom talks, etc. And don't forget your local library. Forge ties with the librarians by donating books (library budgets are being cut to the bone in today's economy), by putting a club display in the lobby, or by offering to help with a summer reading program with books like *Julie the Rockhound*.

Key to attracting kids to your club or society?
Make it fun!



INTER-REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS

by Richard Pankey, Inter-Regional Field Trip Chair

The AFMS Inter Regional Field Trips committee was established at the 2007 AFMS Meeting in Roswell as an "ad hoc committee" to serve for 3 years. An ad hoc committee is a temporary committee to be able to try out something, and that is what we have been doing. So far we have had great Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous' to Texas Springs, NV for pink agate limb casts and to Davis Creek, CA for obsidian. Both of these trips were well attended by rockhounds from many club and several Federations. This year we have trips scheduled to Blue Forest, WY and for agate in New Mexico. The committee is fulfilling its purpose and its goals.

When I say committee I really mean the effort of only 4 individuals in the western Federations. When this Committee was formed I requested recommendations from all the Federation Presidents for members to serve on the committee. We had a lot of communication problems, a canceled AFMS meeting, and for the most part a committee never congealed. And I take a lot of the responsibility for that. It was easier to do it myself than to involve others and I was very involved putting on the first two trips. For the future of the committee this has to change. We need more involvement, from more people and from more Federations.

At the AFMS Meeting in La Habra, CA the AFMS Officers and Directors will be asked to vote on the future of the ad hoc Inter Regional Field Trips committee. I support and recommend that this committee continue and be strengthened by more involvement, from more people and from more Federations. Please help by sending/e-mailing me your comments and ideas.

AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, ACROY Chair



California Federation

The Delvers Gem and Mineral Society would like to nominate **Jon Fults** for Rockhound of the Year. Jon joined the Delvers in 1964 and led the field trips for many years. For about 25 years he led the long summer field trips eventually covering most of the Western half of the United States. You will find him recruiting new members at our Annual Show each year. Recently he "digitized" our history albums (weighing 120 lbs) and produced four DVDs from these albums.

Jon has served on our Board of Directors for over 40 years and served as President in 1980. He has taught lapidary classes, put on programs at our meetings, served as assistant editor and for the past 21 of 23 years, has served as editor of our club bulletin.

Jon and his wife Lois Jean, also a past Delvers President are always together helping at our shows or manning our membership recruitment effort.

It is a pleasure to recognize Jon Fults as this year's Delver Rockhound of the Year.

Joe and Marcia Goetz have been selected to be The Pasadena Lapidary Society's for Rockhounds of the Year 2010. Joe and Marcia are long time members who have served in a number of offices over the years. Their positions have included field trip leaders, show chairmen, treasurer and vice president along the way.

During last four years, Joe has been President, twice elected for two year terms, while Marcia has

been Treasurer during that same period of time. Despite the demands of being an officer during those four years, they have held secondary positions as field trip leaders and hosted committee meetings, club fund raisings and yard rock sales at their home. In addition to their excellent service to the Pasadena Lapidary Society they continue to give of their time to assist with the growth and development of other gem and mineral societies in Southern California.

The Pasadena Lapidary Society members are grateful to their energy, leadership and devotion to the continuing success of the club and its future.



Eastern Federation

The American Fossil Federation (AFF) has selected the husband and wife team of **Gary and Maria Thorne** as our 2010 Fossilhound of the Year honorees. Both became interested in fossils as adults and were elected to membership in the AFF in 1999 and 2006 respectively. As active community and AFF members as well as Friends of the Aurora Fossil Museum, they have served well and often.

Gary has served as AFF fossil show coordinator and Maria as assistant secretary and field trip coordinator. Gary has written award winning articles for the club newsletter.

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Gary and Maria for their continual service and congratulate both of them as our 2010 honorees.

submitted by Betsy Hallman, Secretary

UPCOMING REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Coordinator

It's a bit frustrating when I hear about your upcoming federation convention second hand. How can I help publicize your show via the AFMS Newsletter if I haven't been informed of your dates? How can I help you avoid conflicts with other federation if I don't have all the information?

Please remember to send me the dates and locations of your upcoming regional federation convention as soon as they are established. Contact information is on page 7 of this issue.

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2010	AFMS June 18-20 La Habra, CA	March 6-7 Newark, DE	Aug 27-29 Peoria, IL	Sept. 17-19 Hillsboro, OR	April 23-25 Wichita, KS	Nov. 13 - 14 DeRidder, LA	October 16-18 Knoxville, TN
2011	May 13-15 Anderson, CA	AFMS July 7-10 Syracuse, NY	Sept 8-11 Toledo, OH		December Colorado Spgs, CO		
2012		Sept. 16-17 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS July or August Minnesota				

LAPIS LAZULI

by Chuck Boblenz, Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society. 10th Place, AFMS Adult Advanced Articles Competition

Introduction

Lapis lazuli has intrigued people around the world for centuries. Its vivid, exciting blue color has mesmerized those admiring the works of art and jewelry. The list of admirers includes people from every walk of life, even kings and emperors. This intrigue is caused by the spectacular deep, vivid blue color. In fact, it is so distinct a color that it is hard not to notice it when worn in jewelry or seen in the rough.

History

In the early years of 3300 BC, in the country we know as Iraq and along the Euphrates River, pieces of lapis lazuli were found. The pieces being found at this time were finished gems and jewelry found in Sumerian tombs from earlier civilizations. These pieces had been carved into dishes, vases, beads, and cylindrical seals used in the times of the Sumerians.

Later in the 1300 BC years thousands of similar jewelry items were buried with King Tut. These pieces used lapis lazuli extensively, making use of the contrast of gold and the deep blue color to attract one's eye. Many of these items were shown in a traveling display several years ago.

Pliny writes of sapphires of both "light and dark blue" in the year 79 AD. It is believed that his reference to sapphires of dark blue was aimed at describing lapis lazuli. In fact, so little had been written before this time, some historians were concerned about the interpretations of these early writings.

In the years of the 1200s the Pope had heard of vast lands to the east called the Mongol Empire. He learned from the many traders and adventurers returning to Rome of this vast land and its people. This information caused him to follow his tradition and introduce these peoples to Christianity.

In 1245 the Pope selected Giovanni de Piano Carpini to go to the east and seek the lands of Genghis Khan. Carpini was able to travel to the northern reaches of the Gobi Desert. In these travels he did meet the Khan, but was not successful in converting him to Christianity.

Upon hearing of Carpini's return to Rome and receiving his report, the Pope sent Guillaume de Rubrouck with the same charter: to locate the Great Khan and to convert him to Christianity. Rubrouck traveled further east, surpassing Carpini in his travels, and succeeded in getting to Karakorum, the capital of the Mongol Empire; however, he was equally unsuccessful in converting the Khan before returning to Rome.

In 1260 two brothers, Niccolo and Maffeo Polo, set out from Venice eastward toward Constantinople. Soon after they started their journey they decided to extend their trip and to allow geography and economics to direct their travels. This decision was monumental in that it allowed them to be the first "Latins" to cross the full Asian continent.

These travels allowed the brothers to meet Kublai Khan's cousin, Barka. This friendship caused

them to spend a year in Barka's domain dealing in fine gems and jewels from the area. As the second year was beginning, a war was brewing, causing the brothers to continue their journey.

As they were leaving, they found that their way was blocked by the war, so they chose to go north into an area governed by the Khan of Turkistan. They remained in this area for three years.

Barka's domain included the present country of Afghanistan and slowed the Polo brothers to see the many mines in the northern part near the Oxus River. This is the locale where early lapis lazuli is found. The brothers' keen interest in gems and jewelry caused them to barter and trade for this fine material.

During the brothers' stay in this part of the Mongol Empire, they succeeded in meeting the Great Khan. During one of their meetings the great Khan gave them a message to be given to the Pope, and he assured their safe passage back with a golden tablet with the mark of his seal upon it.

With the passport they safely returned to Venice with great wealth and many stories of adventure. They were soon preparing for a return trip to the Khan's empire. On this trip Niccolo's son, Marco, joined the brothers and found great acceptance into the Mongol Empire by the Khans. This began a number of trips for Marco over the next two decades where he acquired and traded the prized lapis lazuli throughout these journeys.

Leonardo da Vinci sought honest paint dealers that would take lapis lazuli powder and mix it into their paints, which he wanted for that particular blue in his paintings.

It should be noted that there were also dishonest paint dealers during this time. They found that they could substitute azurite for the bluing agent and sell a similarly colored paint. The unfortunate thing that happens to the paint mixed with azurite is that after a period of time it will turn a very bright green, much to the embarrassment of the artisan and causing a deep concern for the paint dealer. This green color is caused by the copper in azurite turning it to malachite over time.

Detail

Lapis lazuli can be pronounced lap'is laz-yoo'le. The first word has the emphasis placed on the "lap," and the smaller emphasis on the "is"; in the second word "laz" has a long a, and the "yoo" sounds like "you"; the "le" sounds like "lay." Go ahead and try it. It's easy to pronounce, isn't it?

The dictionary describes it as: 1. an opaque, azure-blue to deep blue gemstone of lazurite; 2. a mineral, lazurite. (Latin lapis, stone + Medieval Latin lazuli, genitive of lazulum, [lapis lazuli, from Arabic lazaward, from Persian lazhuward.]

Lapis lazuli is a rock. The blue material that first strikes our eye is lazurite. It is the midnight blue

material and is sodium aluminum silicate. The next attractive material is metallic and looks very bright and shiny. It is pyrite, and the remaining white streaks are calcite.

The most prized of this material is extremely dark blue in color, almost midnight black; it is very hard and takes a very good polish, has very small amounts of pyrite, and almost no calcite. This dark blue color of lapis lazuli is much more intense than sodalite or azurite and is much more valued.

Each of the lesser grades of lapis lazuli will have varying amounts of pyrite and calcite with varieties in color from light blue to the most vivid of blues.

The Chilean and Russian lapis lazuli is often lighter in color due to the higher content of calcite and results in a lower value. All material shows an amount of pyrite, but if too much is prevalent the stone can gain a green patina with age.

Lapis Lazuli

Formula: $\text{Na}_8(\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24})\text{S}_2$ sodium aluminum silicate

Color: Blue

Hardness: 5-6

Specific Gravity: 2.4-2.9

Streak: Light Blue

Fracture: Conchoidal, Grainy

Localities:

Afghanistan: West Hindu Kush Mts.

Russia: Baikal Lake, southwest end

Chile: North of Santiago

Lapidary Treatment

Use normal lapidary treatment through the number of grit sizes; however, be cautious of heat build-up when going above 600 grit. Too much heat can cause the piece to fracture and/or shatter.

Lapis lazuli can be used in any silver, gold, or platinum jewelry and will provide instant appeal in its contrast to the metal work.

Conclusion

I hope you have now been introduced to lapis lazuli. 'Tis a stone through the ages and is fun to work with. I hope this will cause you to find the pieces you may have stashed away, get them out, and work them into some super piece of jewelry. As you have noted here, it would undoubtedly draw much attention to you wherever you may wear or show it. So take that step right now, and I believe you will find it very enjoyable.

Join us for
**Breakfast With The Editors
and Webmasters**
AFMS/CFMS Convention
Sunday, June 20, 2010
Details <www.amfed.org>

2009–10 AFMS COMMITTEES

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs for 2009 - 10. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with

All American Club John Washburn <jrwashburn2@msn.com>	Historian Shirley Leeson <shirleyleeson@cox.net>	Show Consultant Bob Livingston <gemguy@verizon.net>
AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year Loretta Ogden <Fbriktr1@aol.com>	International Relations Bob Jones <jonesb52@gmail.com>	Uniform Rules Dee Holland (see Judges Training)
AFMS Newsletter Carolyn Weinberger P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <editor@amfed.org>	Judges Training Seminar Dee Holland <beauholland@centurytel.net>	URC Eligibility Files Anne Cook <secretary@amfed.org>
Boundaries John Wright <osjbw@datasync.com>	Junior Programs Jim Brace-Thompson <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>	Ways and Means Marve Starbuck <greenstone@iserv.net>
Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame Kitty Starbuck <greenstone@iserv.net>	Long Range Planning Joy Bourne <joy.bourne5@gmail.com>	Website/Webmaster Marty Hart <webmaster@amfed.org>
Bulletin Editors Advisory Linda Jaeger <ljalgalg@aol.com>	Name Badges Frank Mullaney <rockyfiv@aol.com>	Ad Hoc Web Site Contest Phyllis George <pgeorge4@comcast.net>
Bylaws Revisory Steve Weinberger <central_office@amfed.org>	Nominating Joy Bourne (see Long Range Planning)	Ad Hoc Competition Study Ron Carman <rrcarman@centurytel.net>
Central Office Administrator Steve Weinberger P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 410-833-7926 <central_office@amfed.org>	Parliamentarian Dee Holland (See Judges Training)	Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip Dick Pankey <dickpankey@juno.com>
Commemorative Stamps Wendell Mohr <wmohr@erols.com>	Past President's Advisory Joy Bourne (see Long Range Planning)	AFMS Scholarship Foundation Dee Holland, President (see Endowment Fund) Emerson Tucker, Vice President Ruth Bailey, Secretary Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer
Conservation and Legislation John Martin <smartin@antelecom.net>	Photography Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)	
Endowment Fund Josie Middleton <jcjems55@yahoo.com>	Program Competition Marge Collins <margaret@qtm.net>	
Financial Investment Lauren Williams <slhaaruir@msn.com>	Publications B. Jay Bowman <bjb@wildblue.net>	
	Public Relations Fran Sick <ednfran@epix.net>	
	Safety Owen Martin <owenmartin@yahoo.com>	

A.L.A.A. NEWS

This was originally in the March American Land Access Association Newsletter, but that newsletter only goes out to ALAA individual and society members and I want to reach out to ALL AFMS society's and members.



Over the past year the American Land Access Association has experienced a substantial increase on a percentage basis in our membership of individuals and societies. But compared to our potential we have a long way to go. ALAA does not send out dues invoices but there was a reminder to send in your dues for 2010 in the December Newsletter. That worked for some people and societies. Unfortunately we didn't get the point across to a lot of our members. As of mid-February 73 out of 107 individual members and 32 out of 57 society member had not sent in their 2010 dues. We hope we aren't losing you and it is just a case of "forgetfuls". We are assaulted daily with proposed legislation, changes in BLM and FS management plans and regulations, and the new assault, National Monuments by Presidential Decree. The need for ALAA is greater today than it was even a year ago. And we need informed and involved members more than ever. We need all of you and a lot more new members. If you have not done so already please send your 2010 dues to our Treasurer, **Ruth Bailey**, today!

Individual and society membership – equal but different. Individual membership in ALAA is not for everyone. While your monetary support is appreciated and useful, what we want and need from individual members is involvement, participation and action. Involved by keeping informed and sharing what you know. Participation, by attending meetings of the BLM and FS, reading and analyzing legislation and regulations, and sharing your talent, skills and interests serving with ALAA projects. And taking action by writing letters and e-mails to your legislators and to the regulators, writing articles for newsletters and other publications.

Society members have the same voting rights and participation rights as individual member through their designated representative. While individual membership in ALAA may not be for everyone I believe that every AFMS/rockhound society should be a member. With society membership you will be kept informed of the proposed legislation, changes in BLM and FS management plans and regulations, and the new assault, National Monuments by Presidential Decree and other challenges. And your members are a potential vast source of action for writing letters and e-mails to your legislators and to the regulators to respond to the challenges. But for a society membership to be effective you need an interested, willing, and committed representative that will interface effectively between ALAA and your society. While most societies have designated a representative we are missing a few. Also we really need an e-mail contact for each society (and for each individual member) for fast, efficient contact as the situation requires. If you haven't done so already, make sure we have your e-mail address. Send it to Ruth Bailey.

from Dick Pankey, President, American Lands Access Association

The American Land Access Association will hold its annual meeting at the AFMS/CFMS Show and Meeting at La Habra, CA in June. This is an important meeting where we will elect the 4 officers, and this year, 2 directors; approve our budget; officer reports and we will have Del Albright, Travelling Ambassador for the Blue Ribbon Coalition as our speaker.

The ALAA Annual Meeting will be held at the La Habra Community Center, (same as CFMS Directors' meeting) on Sunday, June 20th at 11:00 am at the Anaheim Park Hotel, 222 Houston St; Fullerton, CA. The meeting will begin shortly after the end of Breakfast with the Editors is over. Stop at the ALAA information table at the show for directions.

This meeting is open to all members and to the general public. I hope that most of our officers and directors will be able to attend this important meeting.

Be an involved member!

You can obtain an application to join A.L.A.A. by visiting their website <www.amlands.org/>.

THE COLLECTING CYCLE

*by Betty Thompson, Mineralogical Soc. of DC
1st Place 2009 AFMS Adult Poetry Competition*

Minerals come in many forms
(like boulders, chunks, and dust)
and, within each, we know well
lurk beauties that we must
search for, at both site and sale;
pay for, with our sweat or cash;
show off, at our various clubs; and
take home, to display or stash.

Year on year, our treasures grow
and still we keep collecting,
drawn by loveliness that leads
to learning and reflecting
and grateful membership in clubs
where experts generously share
clues to the earth's unfolding
in minerals complex and rare.

Then comes the day we look around
and wonder what to do
with our accreted holdings,
our mineralogical zoos
that far surpass our storage space
and would really stump our heirs,
How to pass on the joys we've found?
What to do with our wares?

Aha! A club – a show – a table!
That's one way that we are able
first to display and then to sell
minerals that we've loved well.
And if we're past the days when we
want to spend our own energy
to organize and price and cart
our collection to the mineral mart,

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.

a lucky club could be quite grateful
if we offer them some crates full
of what we've reaped – so they can sow
new seeds that help others to grow
a love of what the earth has done
and of deep forces that have won
such beauty and complexity,
which give much joy to you and me.

(Dedicated to generous MSDC members Sue and Fred Dhyse, Jennie and the late Paul Smith, and Joyce and the late Richard Hronik.)