



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 9 – October, 2010
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

by Wendell C. Mohr
 Chair
 Commemorative Stamp Committee

I stopped by my local Post Office to buy stamps for personal use this week. I picked up an assortment of recently released commemorative stamps. I do not take issue with the worthy purposes for the issues but I was astounded by the dark, mostly black and white stamps.

Just imagine commemorative stamps which depict beautiful and colorful birthstones! They would be appealing to everyone. The great majority of people know their birthstone. Such stamps would be collectible. USPS likes that because they make the sale without having to deliver services. That is attractive in light of the multi billion dollar USPS deficit. YOU can help by continuing to petition the Postal Service to produce gems on stamps. If you sent a request before, do it again.

If you are a regional officer, please press your federation clubs to continue the push. Ask for information to be carried in your club's newsletters. If you are a club officer, please promote to your membership sending requests to the USPS.

Revisions are being made on the AFMS web site to bring you revised or new information to assist in getting the job done. Read the latest report of the Commemorative Stamp Committee for the California 2010 annual meeting. See a flier to encourage individuals to write. There is a petition to use for your club meetings or events. An available educational two-sided sheet will educate while pressing for help in our project. It can also be used in your FRA or other programs for juniors. Additionally the Citizen's Stamp Advisory committee information has been updated. See it all at <http://www.amfed.org/stamps.htm>.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

It's Been Great Fun!.....2
 Club Rockhounds of the Year.....2
 Junior Activities.....3
 2011 Web Site Contest.....4
 Gems Along the Erie Canal4
 A Safety Note5
 Inter-Regional Field Trips.....5
 Regional Federation Conventions.....5
 Conservation & Legislation.....6
 Do You Scribe?.....6
 AFMS Code of Ethics.....6
 Committee Chairs7
 A.L.A.A.8



Please send any changes in your officers to the AFMS Central Office
 <www.central_office@amfed.org>
Please include the name of the person, office held and mailing address as well as the name of the club.

**DEADLINE
 FOR THE NEXT
 AFMS NEWSLETTER IS
 OCTOBER 1**

THE AFMS

PROUDLY SERVING
SEVEN REGIONAL
FEDERATIONS



OFFICERS:



PRESIDENT
EMERSON TUCKER
<president@amfed.org>



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



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
DOUG TRUE
<dtruefossils@yahoo.com>



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



3RD VICE PRESIDENT
JUDY BECK
<lbeck@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>

IT'S BEEN GREAT FUN!

from Emerson Tucker, President

This is my last message to you as president of the American Federation. I consider holding this office to be an honor and a privilege, and I can honestly tell you that I've enjoyed every minute of it.

My wife Pat and I have had countless opportunities to meet fellow rockhounds all across the country as we visited several of the regional federation conventions and many local club shows. I've enjoyed talking to each and every person I've met and I've always come away learning something new. Many clubs have sent me their monthly bulletins and I've read them all. As a result, I've come to have a better understanding of our clubs and some of the problems that all clubs seem to have. As a result, I've been able to learn (and share) some good solutions to some of these problems. Thank you for sharing!

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Midwest Convention in late August and the Northwest Convention in September because I had coronary by-pass surgery in mid-August and the doctors told me that I had to "stay put" for awhile while I recovered. I was sorry to have missed all the fun and the opportunity to meet more of you, but the doctors were very insistent as was my wife Pat!

This year has gone by very quickly and I really could not have done all the things that the president is supposed to do without my special team of assistants. Each of our regional vice presidents, Doug, Ann, Judy, Marion and Matt, gave me good council when asked as did president-elect Bob. In addition, my committee chairs did an excellent job keeping our members informed, running the various contests, furthering our junior activities and program library etc. Our newsletter continues to be chock full of useful information for our member clubs as well as their own members and so many of you have become involved with all the pending legislation that could ultimately hurt our ability to field collect, either through A.L.A.A. or by writing letters on your own. Please don't let this initiative end!

Our Scholarship Foundation continues to grow, even during this tough economic downturn and our Endowment Fund interest continues to fund various important programs such as our junior activities and program library. I'm proud of you for helping both of these important endeavors continue to thrive.

Beginning on November 1st Bob Miller will be the new AFMS president. I know each of you will welcome him to your meetings, shows and conventions and give him the support that you've given me.

Although you won't see my picture in the newsletters from now on, I'm not riding off into the sunset by a long shot. I plan on attending the 2011 convention in Syracuse, NY plus as many of the local club shows as I can. Rockhounding, and you, are in my blood!

Emerson



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair

It is my pleasure to share with you information about five outstanding club "Rockhounds of the Year". These are truly among the many "unsung heroes" of our AFMS affiliated clubs.



I'm certain that your club also has an individual or couple who you should recognize in this manner. What a wonderful way for you to say "thank you" for all their hard work on behalf of your organization. You'll notice too that one of the honorees this month is a 17 year old junior member. Your club may submit the name of a junior member in addition to the adult members and you can send me one of each per year! Send your information directly to your regional ACROY representative.

Don't wait; we're rapidly getting near the end of 2010! Let's finish the year with a flourish.

California Federation

In business, there are both 'good' and 'bad' problems. Huh? The example of a 'good' problem is when one has too much business <grin>! How does one satisfy all of their orders? The Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society has likewise a 'good' problem. Although we are a small club, we have a core of some mighty hard workers. Selecting a single individual as Rockhound of the Year was challenging. But one name stood above all others.

Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society proudly selects **Linda Ralph** as Rockhound of the Year!



continued on page 3

HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. Activities Chair

New Award for FRA Super-Achievers



Our Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program provides a special award for kids who earn at least 6 of the 15 badges we offer. To mark that accomplishment, they earn a "Rockhound" badge and thus symbolically graduate from a "future" rockhound to a true-blue, full-blown rockhound by having mastered several areas of our hobby. Their names also get posted to an "Honor Roll" on the Kids Corner of the AFMS web site. To date, we've given out FRA membership patches to over 1,900 kids. Of these, a select group of just six percent—or about 125 kids—have achieved Rockhound status.

But there exists an even more select group: a small band of super-motivated achievers who have

gone on to earn all 15 badges! Folks have asked me what we might do to further recognize these kids. I think this is an excellent idea, but I also had to mull over budget implications, particularly since I didn't account for adding a new badge in the latest AFMS budget for next year that was approved in June. Well, Steve and Carolyn Weinberger have come to the rescue! Steve has pointed out that we have an existing supply small AFMS cloisonné pins, and we can easily apply a suitable number of them against the existing juniors activities budget.

Thus, I'm pleased to announce that any kids who have earned all 15 FRA badges also now earn an FRA pin to mark their achievement. I'll be sending out an alert to clubs actively using the FRA program. In addition to the "Honor Roll" list on the AFMS web site, I'll also work with Marty Hart to add a new "Rock Stars" list to highlight our super-achievers, who have been working hard at earning badges—and having fun!

ROCKHOUNDS OF THE YEAR

continued from page 2

From the moment she joined Rockatomics, she 'hit the ground running'. Shortly after joining, Linda became Bulletin editor. Our bulletin, *The Lapidarian*, has never looked better! Linda has covered multiple tasks for our annual show. Whether it be publicity, making flyers, getting sandwiches, setting up a club display case, or?? - You will notice that Linda made it happen!

submitted by Gary Levitt

On behalf of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, I'm pleased to award our 2010 Rockhounds of the Year Award to **Luther and Angela Brown**. Whenever strong arms are needed, Luther is there. Once, while we tried to gather a team of 6 people to move a large saw, we returned to the workshop to find Luther had already moved it himself! He also has donated great rock specimens to our club museum. Angela has used her graphic arts skills in updating our club insignia for use on flyers, show posters, letterhead, etc., and in designing club hats, pins, and other Rockhound insignia to generate sales at our show and among club members. She also helped bring crowds to our last show by moving our show publicity to a whole new level via Internet promotions. Finally, both also helped raise the level of security at our most recent show. They haven't been VGMS members for long, but we don't know where we'd be today without them!

submitted by Jim Brace-Thompson, VGMS President

Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society. Aaron is 17 and a senior in high school. Aaron and his family have been members of our club for many years. He always participates in our Gem & Mineral Shows. He helps load and unload materials from our club storage shed and pitches in all day during set up wherever he sees that help is needed. He also pitches in during the show wherever help is needed. He has worked in the club booth, the silent auction area, and at the demonstrating exhibits; he has also demonstrated at the Oklahoma City show. He has helped repair and clean club electrical equipment and club display cases. One of our club members, Richard Dodrill, has a museum in Cushing, OK. Aaron has spent many hours working over there, he even helped repair the roof. He has made many gem trees, rock animals, and magnets for prizes for our wheel game. He is always cheerfully ready to help the club in any way he can. Aaron is a valuable member of the Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society and fully deserving of this award.

submitted by Richard D. Jaeger



South Central Federation

The Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society has selected Mildred Matlock as Rockhound of the Year for the 2010 year. Some reasons Mildred was selected for this award are: she is a charter member of the club (1957), she has served as Club treasurer since 1994, she has served as show chairman for the past three years, and she designed the Club patch. These are just some of the reasons Mildred Matlock was selected as 2010 Rockhound of the Year.

submitted by the Hi Plains G & Min Society



Rocky Mountain Federation

It is my pleasure to nominate **Aaron Rowlett** as the AFMS Junior Club Rockhound of the Year for the

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.

2011 AFMS Web Site Contest

by Phyllis George, Contest Chair



This is the third year for the AFMS Web Site Contest. I hope that word about the contest is growing and that we'll have even more entries in the 2011 contest. The primary value of this contest lies in the comments that each judge writes as he or she goes through the Web site looking for the items listed on the Score Sheet.

The judges are instructed to identify what the site does well as well as to comment on what can be done better. The goal of the contest is to help the Web sites better serve their clubs.

All the Web Site Contest Committee Members (one for each regional federation) are busy working on their third year of running the Web Site Contest for their regional federation. So far, the position of Contest Committee Chair for the Rocky Mountain Federation Web Site Contest is still open, so I will serve in that capacity for the duration until someone volunteers to take it over. (Committee Chairs do not need to be from the regional federation that they chair since the contest is handled entirely by e-mail. If you would like to volunteer as the RMFMS Committee Chair, please contact me at <pgeorge4@comcast.Net>)

The Committee Members set the due dates for their contest and receive the entries. They forward the entries to the two judges assigned to 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 Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters during their regional federation's annual show. The first-place entry from each federation is then forwarded to Wes Lingerfelt (the AFMS level judge). Currently the Committee Members are notifying webmasters, editors, and club presidents in their region and their regional newsletter editor about the details of the contest, the due date for entries, and the rest of the schedule for their regional contest.

If you missed the results of the 2010 contest, you can download the September AFMS newsletter and find them there.

Contact your regional federation Committee Member (listed below) by e-mail for information about the contest and the deadlines. The deadlines all vary by region and are determined by when their annual show is scheduled.

Webmasters wishing to enter their Web sites into the contest should download the **2011 AFMS Web Site Contest Entry Form**, the **2011 AFMS Web Site Contest Score Sheet**, and the **2011 AFMS Web Site Contest Score Sheet Guidelines** from the AFMS Web site (or from their regional federation's Web site). (*The 2011 versions of these forms MUST be used.* The contest information on

the AFMS Web site can be found at <www.amfed.org/web/website_contest.htm> or at <www.amfed.org/downloads.htm>.

The 2011 score sheet guidelines thoroughly explains what makes a good web site and what the judges will be looking for, so please read it carefully.

Members of the Web Site Contest Committee:

California Federation (CFMS)
Merryan O'Neill
<mvoneill@comcast.net>

Eastern Federation (EFMLS)
Dan Imel
<lapidry@aol.com>

Midwest Federation (MWF)
Cindy Root
<d-root@sbcglobal.net>

Northwest Federation (NFMS)
Cheri George
<lizardwoman3@yahoo.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation (RMFMS)
Phyllis George
<pgeorge4@comcast.net>

South Central Federation (SCFMS)
Don Shurtz
<don.shurtz@gmail.com>

To enter the contest, the webmaster needs to fill out the 2011 Entry Form completely and fill out the information requested in the top part of the 2011 Score sheet. These forms can be filled-in on your computer and saved to your hard drive. *Important: You need Adobe Reader version 8 or 9 (or Acrobat v. 8 or 9) to be able to save the filled-in forms to your hard drive and to modify them later if necessary.* Send the two completed forms as e-mail attachments to your regional Web Site Contest Committee Member **before the due date in your region.**

Two judges will be assigned to each regional competition (their scores for each contestant will be averaged) and one judge (Wes Lingerfelt) is assigned for the AFMS level. Each judge probably will be judging two different regions, but no judge will judge his or her own region. Right now I have a total of eight regional judges. If I can get another six judges, each judge will judge only one regional federation.

If you are a current (or former) webmaster or are very Web-site savvy, please help make the contest a success by volunteering a little of your time to act as a judge. Read the 2011 Score Sheet Guidelines to see what the judges will be looking for on the sites that they judge, and if you would like to be an important part of this contest, please contact me at <pgeorge4@comcast.net>. Help this contest be an even bigger success in its third year.

GEMS ALONG THE ERIE CANAL

by Cathy Paatterson, 2011 Convention Chair

A Diamond Celebration
2011 Convention and Show in Syracuse, NY

The Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse welcomes you in 2011! This is our second installment of getting the word out to you. Last month we told you when and where the show is and when and where the meetings are. We tried to give enough information for the early birds to think about a hotel reservation at the headquarters Ramada Inn on Buckley Rd. in Syracuse. Complete package details will be coming in the near future at the American Federation website. Stay tuned!

This time we will tell you what's available for you to enjoy in our area of the state before and after the show and convention festivities. Plan to take some extra time to enjoy the sights and pleasures of Central New York (upstate) for extra bonuses.

- Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse featuring a full size packet boat right on Erie Blvd where the boats carried families and cargo.

- Boxing Hall of Fame (Canastota) is 25 minutes east from your hotel.

- Also nearby – the world class Turning Stone Casino in Verona, NY.

- Herkimer diamond hunting opportunities at several locations 1 ½ hours east along the Erie Canal route.

- Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown 2 hours to the east.

- St. Lawrence Seaway and 1000 Islands are 2 hours north near Canada. Boat trips and a tour of New York's Bolt Castle.

- Learn all about industrial garnet production and collect there, 3 hours north at North Creek, NY in the beautiful Adirondacks.

- Taste your way through the beautiful Finger Lakes Wine Country (25+ wineries). Just 1 ½ hours to the west.

- Historic glider and aviation museum and glider trips aloft, 2 hours south and west.

- Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. See world famous Steuben crystal made at the museum. 2 ½ hours to the south in Ithaca.

- Museum of the Earth in Ithaca, NY just 1 ½ hours south.

- Enjoy a dinner cruise on one of the nearby Finger Lakes.

- Niagara Falls is just 2 ½ hours to the west!

- IMAX Theater at our Museum of Science and Technology in downtown Syracuse.

- Eastman Kodak Museum in Rochester 1 ½ hours to the west.

- Mammoth, 3 story, Carousel Mall just a couple miles from the host hotel.

- Salt Museum (Syracuse got its start pumping and evaporating salt) 2 miles from the hotel.

- Stickley, collector-grade furniture factory and showroom 20 minutes east.

The weather is ideal, sunny and warm, and there's so much to enjoy, lots to see, photo opportunities galore to snap and share back home. The welcome mat will be out for YOU. You just can't lose unless you fail to come and be part of the 2011 great gathering of super people – Rockhounds!

A SAFETY NOTE ABOUT APPLYING LESSONS LEARNED

by Owen Martin, AFMS Safety Chair

Last month I wrote an article about hunting for fossils in a creek that was a few feet above normal levels and the associated safety issues that I encountered.

So having received a little grief from the reading audience my friend Chase committed to a follow up trip a couple of weeks ago. We both had a Friday off coming up so we set the date. Preparations, safety and otherwise, were made well in advance and as the week started it looked like we were all set.

And then Hurricane Alex formed off the Yucatan and threatened everything!

The next couple of days were filled with phone calls, watching weather radar and monitoring river levels on-line. After much discussion on Thursday night we decided that the weather looked clear enough that we would still go. Friday morning the weather looked like it had turned a little on us and the radar showed "green" for rain most of the way to our spot.

Over the years I've walked several miles of the creek in question and have a good feel for the extent of the drainage basin. It looked like it had not received any rain from Alex as of yet. Using my blackberry phone I was able to monitor the radar, too, and with the exception of a few sprinkles it looked OK. But doubt did creep strongly into our minds as it rained the entire drive up.

Upon arrival at the parking area it was raining, but we committed to getting wet and packed up our gear to hike the 500 hundred yards to the creek. After all, we had driven 3 hours to get there so we might as well check it out.

Amazingly, when we got to the creek and looked down there was NO high water in it. It was still drizzling, but things were looking up. We decided that we would keep a sharp eye on any rain clouds that were upstream and planned our decent into the creek bed. This is where Chase's better gear was a key to success. He hammered in a steel spike and tied a rope to it so that we could safely get down the wet slope into the creek bed. The last time I was here the bank was dry, but the landing if I had slipped would have put me in 4-5 feet of water. What a difference a few weeks made!

This time around we did have access to the entire cut bank so that made hunting a lot easier. The rain did continue to come down and quite heavily for short periods of time so we made sure that we had any easy route to high ground if the water level started to come up rapidly, but it never did and about an hour later the rain finally stopped and so did Alex's efforts to stop our hunt! We were soaked from the rain, but happy, and Chase's gear made it easy to get out of the creek safely with all our finds.

Interestingly I know several people who were out hunting in different parts of Texas that weekend and once they committed to getting wet all seemed to have productive hunting trips. Watching the weather was key as some of them had to revert to secondary sites, but that seemed to work out.

For us, being prepared with safety lines, good gloves and boots, on-line radar access, a 4x4 and the helping hands of a hunting buddy, all helped to deliver a successful and SAFE fossil hunting trip.

INTER-REGIONAL FIELD TRIPS

by Richard Pankey, Coordinator

What is an Inter-Regional Field Trip? It is a collecting trip, tour, outing, etc., an event attended by members and rockhounds from more than one of the AFMS Regional Federations.



Why hold an Inter-Regional Field Trip or event? To get the rockhounds and members of the AFMS Regional Federations together to promote a greater connection between Federations. The regional Federations get together once a year at the AFMS Convention to do **business**. An Inter-Regional event is to get-together for **FUN**.

For me, the best part and the best memories of the 4 Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous that I have attended was not the rocks I found, but the people that I met. The best memories are the campfires, happy hours, potlucks, or just talking with someone from a different state with stories about collecting and camping in an area that I haven't been to. An Inter-Regional event is just a good excuse to go to a place that I haven't been to before.

The Inter-Regional Rockhound Rendezvous that we have had so far have been 4 to 6 day events to collecting areas. There is no reason an Inter-Regional event can't be a 1 or 2 day event for collecting at a special quarry, a tour of special geological feature/area, a rock swap or seminar. There are many reasons and places to have an Inter-Regional event; the important thing is to have one. How about having one on the East coast or perhaps the Midwest. I'm sure that there are some terrific localities out there in your neck of the woods.

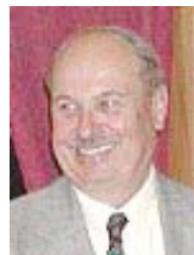
Have an idea; have some questions? Just send me an e-mail (dickpankey@juno.com) and I will do what I can to help.



REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Show Coordinator

The year is certainly wending it's way towards the end of our regional federation convention cycle. Only two more to go in 2010 – Southeast in October and South Central in December. It sure makes sense for these federations to hold their annual get-togethers in fall when local temperatures are more comfortable than those normally found during July and August in those areas.



Please remember to send me your regional convention dates for 2011, 2012 and 2013 so that we can help assure that there will be no other regional convention that conflicts with the dates you've chosen.

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2010	AFMS June 18-20 La Habre, CA	March 6-7 Newark, DE	Aug 27-29 Peoria, IL	Sept. 17-19 Hillsboro, OR	April 23-25 Wichita, KS	Dec. 11 - 12 DeRidder, LA	October 16-18 Knoxville, TN
2011	May 13-15 Anderson, CA	AFMS July 7-10 Syracuse, NY	Sept 8-11 Toledo, OH		June 24-26 Colorado Spgs, CO	April 15-17 Alpine, TX	
2012		Sept. 16-17 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS July 26 - 29 Wayzata, MN				

CONSERVATION & LEGISLATION

by John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation Chair

New bill to create ~20,000 acres of wilderness in Tennessee



The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010 (S. 3470) was introduced by U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) on June 9, 2010 and has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

If this bill is enacted it will designate 20,000 acres of public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee as wilderness. A Map of the proposed wilderness can be found on the ALAA Website along with the text and status of the proposed legislation. <http://www.amlands.org/6652/85212.html>. Is this legislation a good thing? Well, living on the west coast it will be very hard to determine, however only the Rockhounds living and collecting in Tennessee will be able to answer that question. After reading the bill and studying the map an honest conclusion may be reached as to whether this will hamper Rockhounding Activities within the Cherokee National Forest or is a real environmental plus for the state of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010 specifically creates one new wilderness area and expands the boundaries of five separate existing wilderness

areas already within the Cherokee National Forest. Since these areas are owned entirely by the U.S. Forest Service and are being managed as Wilderness Study Areas currently, this bill will have no effect on privately owned lands and will cause no change in access for the public.

The Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010:

- Creates the 9,038 acre Upper Bald River Wilderness (Monroe County)
- Adds 348 acres to the Big Frog Wilderness (Polk County)
- Adds 966 acres to the Little Frog Wilderness (Polk County)
- Adds 2,922 acres to the Sampson Mountain Wilderness (Washington and Unicoi County)
- Adds 4,446 acres to the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness (Carter and Johnson County)
- Adds 1,836 acres to the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness (Monroe County)

If after review of the facts it is determined that the proposed legislation does not have a negative impact on Rockhounding within the Cherokee National Forest, then please contact any of the officers or state representatives listed on the ALAA Website or email to info@amlands.org or the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee afms-conservation@antelecom.net with recommendations for support or opposition of this proposed legislation. Conservation of our natural resources is just as important as keeping collecting sites open and accessible to all Rockhounds.

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.

Do You SCRIBE?

by Ye Olde Editor

Scribe: (noun) A person who copies out documents; a journalist.

S.C.R.I.B.E.: Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

If your club has a monthly bulletin there's a wonderful organization that your editor should belong to. Dues are very, very reasonable: just \$6 per year. For that small amount, your editor will receive four e-mailed newsletters per year plus a DVD that's crammed full of articles, clip art, cartoons etc. that can be used in your own club publication.



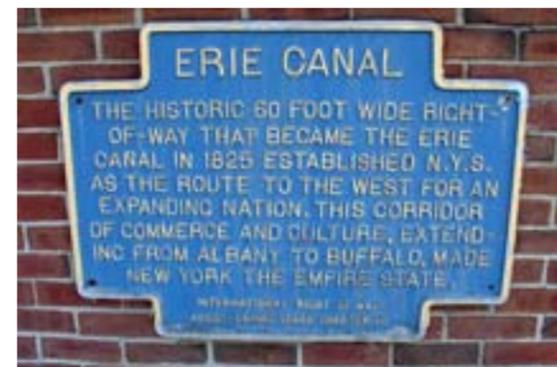
Being editor of a club bulletin is not an easy task. Getting the various elements together: presidents message, minutes, field trip news, photos, club sunshine, federation news plus educational articles and how-to tips is time consuming. Many of our clubs do not have lots of members who willingly submit original articles or poems or cartoons and scouring other sources for articles that can be legally reproduced can be a royal pain.

Membership in S.C.R.I.B.E. can help. The \$6 membership fee does not cover the value of the DVD resource members receive each year!

The holidays are coming up. Why not say "thank you" to your club editor by giving them a one year or multi-year membership in S.C.R.I.B.E. Your editor will be delighted and your club will benefit from all the expertise gained during the year.

Want to see a sample issue of the e-newsletter? Download a copy at [scribe@rbnet.net/bulletin.htm](mailto:scribe@rbnet.net). It's a "good read"!

Visit the S.C.R.I.B.E. website scribe@rbnet.net for more information and to download an application. Be sure to mention that you learned about S.C.R.I.B.E. via the AFMS Newsletter.



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>

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Loretta Ogden
<Fbriktr1@aol.com>

AFMS Newsletter
Carolyn Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926 <editor@amfed.org>

Boundaries
John Wright
<osjbw@datasync.com>

Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
Kitty Starbuck
<greenstone@iserv.net>

Bulletin Editors Advisory
Linda Jaeger
<ljgralg@aol.com>

Bylaws Revisory
Steve Weinberger
<central_office@amfed.org>

Central Office Administrator
Steve Weinberger
P.O. Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302
410-833-7926 <central_office@amfed.org>

Commemorative Stamps
Wendell Mohr
<wmohr@erols.com>

Conservation and Legislation
John Martin
<smartin@antelecom.net>

Endowment Fund
Josie Middleton
<jcjems55@yahoo.com>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slharuir@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson@cox.net>

International Relations
Bob Jones
<jonesb52@gmail.com>

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

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net>

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Thompson
<jbraceth@roadrunner.com>

Long Range Planning
Joy Bourne
<joy.bourne5@gmail.com>

Name Badges
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfv@aol.com>

Nominating
Joy Bourne (see Long Range Planning)

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland (See Judges Training)

Past President's Advisory
Joy Bourne (see Long Range Planning)

Photography
Steve Weinberger (see Bylaws Revisory)

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret@qtm.net>

Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb@wildblue.net>

Public Relations
Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Safety
Owen Martin
<owenmartin@yahoo.com>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Uniform Rules
Dee Holland (see Judges Training)

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary@amfed.org>

Ways and Means
Marve Starbuck
<greenstone@iserv.net>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart
<webmaster@amfed.org>

Web Site Contest
Phyllis George
<pgeorge4@comcast.net>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
(see Endowment Fund)
Emerson Tucker, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Jon Spunaugle, Treasurer

A.L.A.A. NEWS

by Dick Pankey, President, American Lands Access Association

Listening Session for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative

On July 6, 2010 I attended a Listening Session for America's Great Outdoors Initiative held at UC Davis in Davis, CA. The Blue Ribbon Coalition has published several Alert messages about the America's Great Outdoors Initiative and the Listening Sessions that told what it is and gave the background on it and I am not going to restate it here. To me there is a lot of effort and money being expended for questionable, unclear, poorly stated objectives. What is un-said is what we should concern us.

The stated reasons for this "Initiative" are to:

- Reconnect Americans, especially children, to the out of doors.
- Build upon State, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation
- Use science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

New focus may be needed to address Reason 1, but there are procedures, laws and regulation in place to address Reason 2 and 3. This "Initiative" is just another mechanism/tool that the conservation/preservation extremist are trying to use to keep people off our public lands and control our use and activities.

We must be vigilant. We must be aware. We must be involved and participate in the process. This "Initiative" could affect how all public and private lands in the United States is used. This affects everyone in every state. We all need to be involved and participate. **Why should this matters to you:** There is a very real possibility this might just end up being a giant vehicle to hand the "conservation community" whatever is on its latest wish list.

Please educate yourself on the "Initiative"; inform others; and involve yourself in the process. Listening Sessions are being scheduled all around the country. Watch for them and find one in your area and attend it. Check out these web sites for more information: Remarks by The President at America's Great Outdoors Conference

<www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-americas-great-outdoors-conference>

and the BRC web site - <www.sharetrails.org/>

This is the statement that I gave at the Listening Session for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative held at UC Davis. I wanted to keep it simple. It says who we are, who we represent and what we want. This statement is a start, something to build on. The purpose of making this statement at this meeting was to document our presence at the meeting and to go on record that the Americans Lands Access Assoc. was here to be part of the "process".

"I am Richard Pankey, President of the American Lands Access Association. The purpose of the American Lands Access Association is to promote and ensure the rights of amateur fossil and mineral 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. We represent the over 52,000 members of 640 societies of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the many, many millions of unaffiliated rockhounds.

We advocate for access to public lands; to keep them open and to reopen unnecessarily closed lands. We promote the principles and policies of Multiple-Use for BLM and FS managed land.

We believe that conservation and recreation are

compatible and desirable. We need to get past the prejudice that "use is abuse".

We believe and advocate that except for special cultural and environmental considerations that all public lands, both Federal and State should be available and useable by our citizens."

I believe that a simple statement like this is a good way to introduce ALAA to others at meetings like the Listening Session and at BLM and FS meetings. It can also serve as an introduction when writing or e-mailing comments about legislation and regulations.

Watch for a "Listening Session" in your area; I know that they are scheduled for Utah, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

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 Affiliations: _____

Hobby Interest: _____

Remit fees to: ALAA

Ruth Bailey

2857 Addison Pl

Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c)(4) 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 not deductible as a charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.