



AFMS Newsletter
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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 9, October, 2011
 <www.amfed.org>

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
 SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

ANNOUNCING A NEW AND REVISED JUDGES TRAINING CLASS

by Dee Holland, Chair



I'm delighted to announce that the AFMS Board of Directors approved a new format for our popular Judges Training Class during the annual meeting this past July. Now, instead of holding the class each year in a set place, we're going to bring the class to a location in each federation and piggy back it with an ongoing gem and mineral show. It is our hope that by doing this, costs for participants will be lower than in the past and more people will be able to take advantage of it.

Here's the plan.....

- ◆The Judging Class will be a 4 day activity.
- ◆Orientation will be held the first evening.
- ◆Two days will be spent reviewing the AFMS Uniform Rules.
- ◆One day will be spent evaluating exhibits at a local show that's being held in the city where the class is taking place.
- ◆It is hoped that at least one person from each federation will attend.
- ◆Other participants from each federation may also attend. There will be a \$20 per person charge for the class. This will include lunch on the two days of class.

The first Judges Training Class will be held in 2012 in Reno, Nevada in association with the Reno Gem & Mineral Society show. Dates will be May 10 - 13, 2012.

The schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, May 10: Arrival. Orientation session will begin at 7:00 pm.
- Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 - class will be held from 9 am until 5 pm
- Sunday, May 13 - evaluation of exhibits at the show venue. There will be an evaluation session immediately following.

Motel details for the inaugural class are as follows:

Dates: May 10-13, 2012.

Where: Holiday Inn, 55 East Nugget Ave
 Sparks (Reno), NV
 755-358-6900.

Cost of hotel room: 2 queen or 1 king, single or double occupancy - \$75 per night tax included.

Meals: Lunch included on Friday and Saturday. Breakfast and dinner on your own. The hotel has a restaurant.

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Transportation: Free shuttle from the Reno airport to and from the hotel.

RV camping will be available nearby.

If you have questions, or would like to attend, contact Dee Holland at <beauholland@centurytel.net>. A registration form will be available via this newsletter next month.

Upcoming Regional Federation Conventions

from Bob Livingston

	California Federation	Eastern Federation	Midwest Federation	Northwest Federation	Rocky Mountain Federation	South Central Federation	Southeast Federation
2012	Riverside, CA	Sept. 15-16 Harrisburg, PA	AFMS July 26 - 29 Wayzata, MN	May 18 - 20 Kennewick, WA			
2013	Ventura, CA	April 5 - 7 Long Island, NY					AFMS

THE AFMS

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FEDERATIONS



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THANKS TO ALL

by Bob Miller, President

This has been a quick and busy year for me and just when you just learn the “ropes” it is time to pass the gavel on to the new president. The position of president presents a lot of challenges behind the scenes that most are not aware of and it is not a “one man band” operation as it takes many minds to do the job.

The “OP’S” do not cover a lot of situations and problems that arise and I owe thanks to so many for guidance especially from Carolyn and Steve Weinberger of the central office and Shirley Leason and Dee Holland for their advice as “having been there, done that” and last, but not least to all of the people who volunteered to fill the various chairs which made my job of having to keep the federation rolling so much easier.

As you probably can imagine I have received a lot of newsletters and right now have a pile of printed material on my desk a foot high> I've also been spending a lot of time reading them on the web and I have really enjoyed them all. I've enjoyed learning about what you and your clubs are doing plus the field trip articles, and a lot of new tips to pass on. I feel the editors are the glue that helps to keep the hobby alive. Without the exchange of material, ideas etc. no one would know what clubs around the country were doing or even of their existence. For an example I would not have known that a Mineralogical club from NY state is celebrating their 125th year. Wow!.

With that said, the experience has been great and once again, thanks to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as the President this year and to be more involved in such a great and enjoyable hobby.

Bob



HAVING FUN: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Junior Programs Chair

Encourage Juniors to Write Newsletter Articles

I served as a judge for the juniors' entries in this year's AFMS Bulletin Contest, the third time I've done so. Each time, it proves to be a pleasurable challenge. It's pleasurable because, well, in the words of the late great Art Linkletter, “kids say the darndest things.” It's a challenge because the articles have already passed muster at the regional level and so are very, very good to begin with, making it difficult to pick out one as clearly superior to any other. In one disappointing respect, though, judging juniors' articles has become something less of a challenge since the first time I did it in 2007. Read on...

Some statistics: The first time I judged juniors' entries in 2007, I received **25** articles from **six** of our seven regional Federations (12 articles in the 12-17 age category and 13 in the under 12 age category). But this year, I received just **17** articles from only **four** of our regionals (7 articles for ages 12-17 and 10 for under 12). That's quite a drop in just a few years, both in terms of the number of articles and the number of regional Federations participating.

So, following a prompt from Carolyn Weinberger, here's my plea to the newsletter editors for each of the seven regional Federations: **please include an article in your very next regional newsletter asking local clubs within your Federation to encourage more junior articles in local club newsletters, and then to submit those articles into bulletin**

competition. The benefits—both intangible and tangible—are many. Kids will feel more connected to their society and will experience a burst of pride in seeing their words in print. Helping kids learn and grow helps us fulfill our educational mission as 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organizations. Reading about the hobby as viewed through the fresh, enthusiastic eyes of a child can bring a smile to the most jaded of old jade carvers. Kids writing newsletter articles can earn the Communication badge in our AFMS/FRA Badge Program. Authors might gain national exposure should you also submit their work to Darryl “Diamond Dan” Powell, who is always seeking articles written by junior rockhounds to publish in *Mini Miner Monthly*. Finally, articles can be entered into competition at both the regional and national Federation levels for further recognition and awards.

No matter who ends up judging junior articles in the future, don't let 'em off the hook by making it less of a challenge with ever fewer articles to review. Ratchet up the challenge because, with kids saying the darndest things, I can guarantee: the more articles the judge will have to score, the more that judge will be having fun!



MARGARET HEINEK

March 30, 1921 - August 22, 2011

Margaret F. Heinek passed away at the age of 90 on August 22. A resident of New Carlisle, Indiana, Margaret was a member of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution and was very active in numerous volunteer activities in the New Carlisle area, including those of her sons Robert and Charles (deceased).

Margaret served as president of the Michiana club as well as the Midwest Federation (1991) and was president of AFMS in 1997 when it celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Jackson, MS.

Margaret is survived by her husband Bob, her son Robert and two granddaughters. Those wishing to remember Margaret are encouraged to make contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, % of your local coordinator.



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden



South Central Federation

We believe that **Gary Hudson** of the Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society should be our Rockhound of the Year. His constant dedication to our club and concern about the improvement of it make him a most valuable member.

As our newsletter editor, he devotes countless hours to publishing it most every month.

If we need anything done he is always one of the first to volunteer and makes sure that it gets done. He always helps visitors feel welcome and sees they get a proper tour of our clubhouse and our shop tools. And he is a really nice person.

submitted by Betty Scarborough, President

A SECRET THAT SHOULD NOT BE KEPT

Doesn't your club have at least one "unsung" hero? I'm certain that you do, so my question is, "why haven't you taken a few minutes to write a brief article telling the world about him or her? Here's your chance to act like a rooster and crow a bit about the good fortune that your club has in having your person (or couple) as a member.

The ACROY program is a marvelous way of saying thank you to your hard working member. Sorry, but you can only recognize one individual or one couple per year, but you have to start somewhere. With only a couple of months left in 2011, NOW is the time to send in the name and brief (100 words or less) write-up telling why your person is such a valuable asset to your club.

Information about your unsung hero will be published in your regional federation newsletter as well as on the pages of the AFMS Newsletter. All the really important people will get to read how fortunate your club is! And best of all, your "unsung hero" will truly know how much the club appreciates his or her efforts.

Oh yes, in addition to the individual or couple that you can recognize each year, you can also recognize a junior member too.

So come on, act like a rooster and crow a bit! Send your submission information to your regional federation ACROY person (CFMS - Loretta Ogden, EFMLS - Ellery Borow, MWF - Fran Gutowski, NFMS - Vi Jones, RMFMS - Howie Whiting, SCFMS - Frank Rowell, SFMS - send to AFMS Chair). Mailing information is on your regional federation website.

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

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These are sent to the President, Editor and Federation Director or Secretary.

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CONTENT - LETTERS

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

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A.L.A.A. AT SYRACUSE

by Dick Pankey, President



Each year the American Lands Access Association holds its annual business meeting in conjunction with AFMS Convention. This is the **business meeting** for ALAA where we will elect our directors and officers, have officer and committee reports, and approve our budget for the coming year. The **work** of ALAA takes place throughout the year by our officers, directors, committees, at regional Federation conventions and the actions of our members. Our meeting this year was held on Wednesday evening at the host hotel; one of the first activities on the convention schedule. Even so we had a very good attendance of all four officers, five directors and many members.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag followed by introduction of two of our past presidents – Bob Carlson and John Spunaugle. The first order of business was the election of directors. Our directors are elected for a three year term and we elect 1/3 of them every year. Bob Carlson, John Wright and Doug True were elected for a 3 year term by a vote of the members present. Tom Noe from the Midwest Federation was elected to fill the remainder of Dean Stone's term. We are grateful for Dean's years of service to ALAA. Next order of business was the election of officers for 2012. The directors re-elected me as president, Shirley Leeson vice president, Kathy Miller secretary and Ruth Bailey treasurer.

Following the officer's reports and reports from our Permanent Directors, the 2012 budget was approved. To promote ALAA at regional Federation shows money was budgeted for speakers and expenses. Any Federation that would like support for an ALAA meeting and speaker expense should contact me for details.

We will again have an ALAA informational meeting with speakers, presentations and exchanges at Quartzsite, AZ in January. We are inviting the BLM, other public lands user organizations and the general public. If you have any ideas and would like to help, please contact me. Watch for more information and details in our November Newsletter.

ALAA had an information table for the 2 days of the show. There was a bulletin board with information about ALAA – our purpose and activities. We passed out cards with the AFMS Code of Ethics to everyone who stopped to talk to us. The info table gave us an opportunity to present ourselves to the public and proved to be great for recruiting new members. The table was manned (and womaned) by ALAA members, directors and officers. A Big Thank You to all that helped.

Our next annual meeting will be held during the AFMS/MFMS Convention in Wayzata, MN in July, 2012. Start planning now to attend this ALAA meeting.

Be an involved member!

THE 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.



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 ____/____/____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Club Affiliations: _____

Hobby Interest: _____

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Ruth Bailey

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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.